Inside Look At Chicago's Future –
"Headquarters City"

KEEP STRONG

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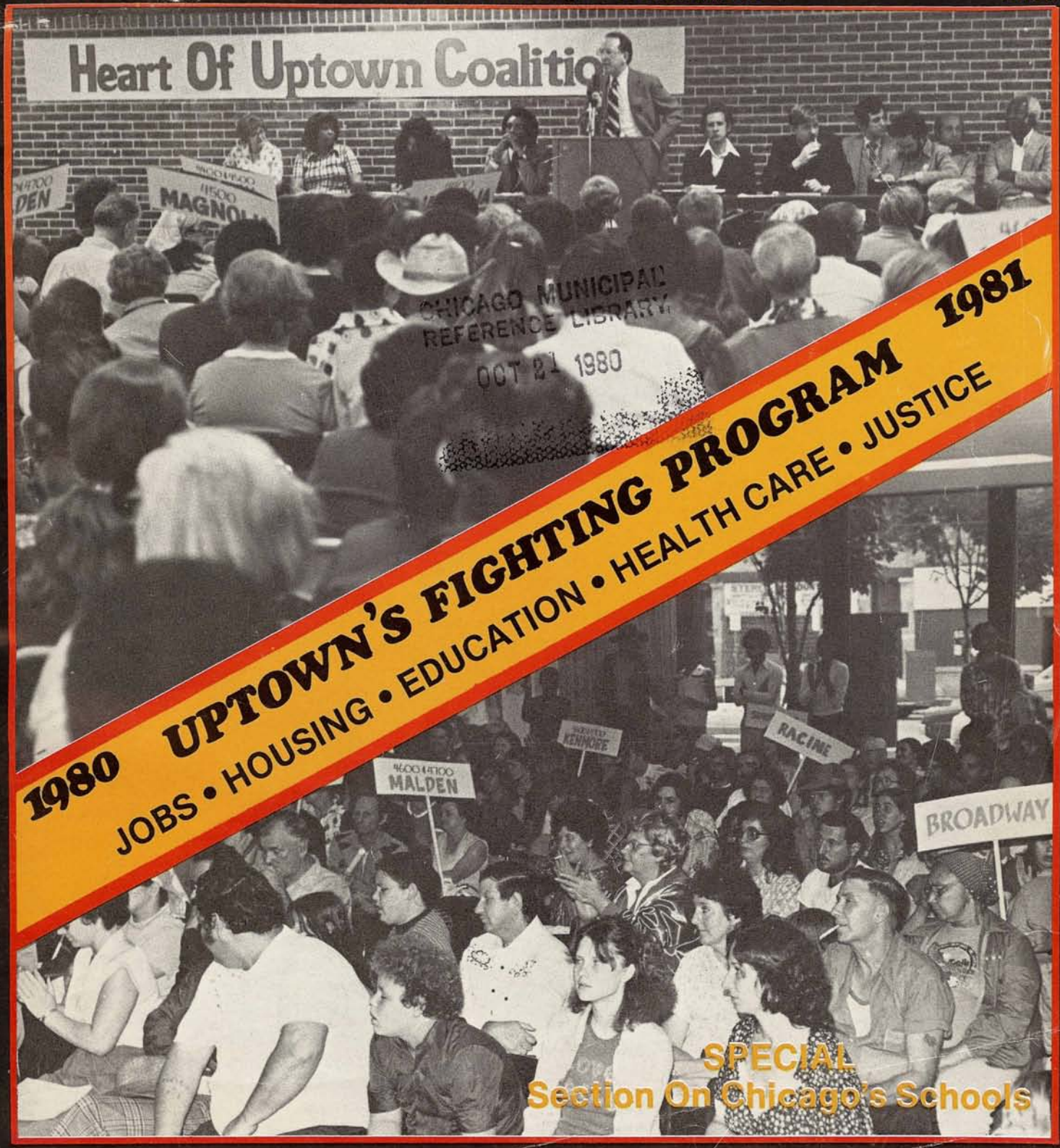
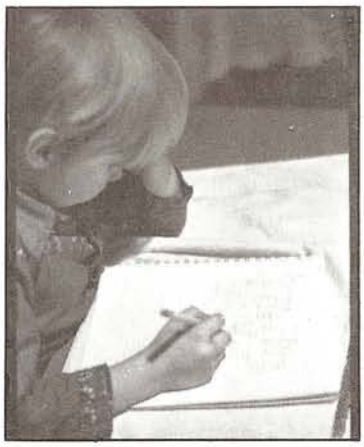


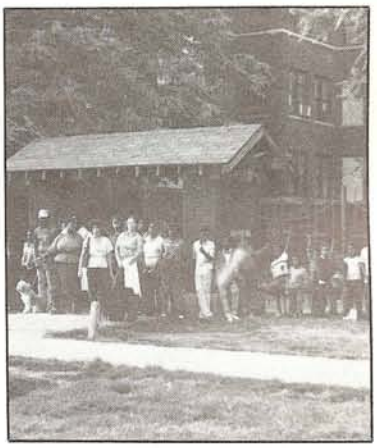
SPECIAL
Section On Chicago's Schools

THIS MONTH IN

4 The Heart of Uptown Coalition held its Convention late in the summer. Hundreds worked for six straight days to put together a program for the next year. Here's how it happened.



18 An eight page look at public schools in Chicago, from several points of view—elementary school students, parents and teachers. Find out first hand why kids lose interest after three or four years.



26 Dozens of families at the east end of Uptown are being moved from their homes to make way for condominiums. The landlord is Uptown Federal Savings and Loan. The people refuse to move.

32 Take a tour around the city with the right people and you can see why they are starting to call Chicago the "Headquarters City". Headquarters for giant corporations and no room for anybody else.

37 Notice of a property tax increase, aimed at small homeowners, set off a tax revolt in Dallas, Texas this summer. The struggle is in the courts right now. It probably won't end there.

40 Zimbabwe became the 153 member of the United Nations last September. Prime Minister Robert Mugabe seized the occasion to explain the history of the independence struggle, thank the people who had supported it and make the case for reparations.

KEEP STRONG...

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From The Editor

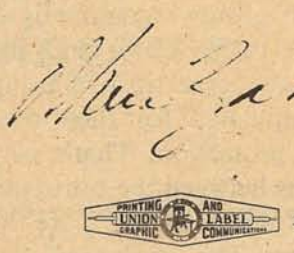
Dear Friends,

First of all you should take note of our special community focus on the Heart of Uptown Coalition. The convention that was held in the last days of August was truly a demonstration of democracy at work. The program that came out of it reflects the demands of people not only from that community, but from neighborhoods all over the country.

The eight-page section on education includes, for the first time we know of, an examination of elementary education by the children who really know the weaknesses of the system. Starting this month "Parents' Voice" will become a regular column. Anybody with children in Chicago's public schools is invited to send something they would like to see in print.

A followup to last month's article on the police murder of Richard Ramey represents our continuing commitment to press the issue of police brutality until some fundamental changes are made in how and by whom the police are directed.

There's been a lot of action at the United Nations in recent weeks. Prime Minister Mugabe was on hand as Zimbabwe became the newest member of the world body. Once again the United States was denounced for its destructive role on the island of Puerto Rico.



Unity Organization & Determination

Dear KEEP STRONG,

I want to let you know that I appreciate the time you take and the concern you demonstrate in coming out here to see me. I definitely realize that it has to be a hassle to go through the changes, especially the ones these people put you through up front. Just want to say thanks for being real people, they are getting harder to find as time passes. Seems the society we live in is progressing towards total self-centeredness. Perhaps this view is a result of my present environment, however, I am one who believes that the present is only a reflection of the outside, with basically the same goals and attitudes in a general sense. And from all that ya'll tell me, I don't feel that I'm that wrong.

Sure was pleased to hear that the just-passed convention was a success. Pleases me to see that people are opening their eyes finally and starting to stand up for what's theirs. This goes especially for poor Whites; too long this class of people has gone unnoticed, sort of in limbo. We are probably the most discriminated against in all society. The minority groups recognize us as part of the ruling class, and the ruling class sees us as trash, a group to be manipulated for their own profit and protection. That's why they keep us between the other minorities and themselves. We are the weight takers. The whole time I've been in the joint I've seen this statement or observation prove itself. And simple reading of the papers, etc., tells me that the same is true out there.

As you so rightly said in your last letter we do need an organization that the people can take part in and work through. A sort of rallying point. Unity is strength. While at Menard I started a personal campaign to try and change the discriminatory practices of the administration here. And I quickly found out that you can't fight the powers that be alone—one voice just can't be heard and is easily ignored. The biggest need we have at this time is unity, after that we must have organization and direction. For example, did you notice the victory the people recently won in Poland? All these people had were unity, organization, direction and determination. And they brought that country's government to their knees. A lesson for all of us. Also want to send you an article I recently read in *Newsweek* magazine on Boulder, Colorado. There again the people decided to take action and through the same process of struggle that we must endure they achieved their goals. Only problem is that once they attained this state they allowed themselves to fall into the same traps that the previous administration had fallen into. I've spoken with several people out there, in Chicago, and they agree with the basic aims of the Coalition, however they are wondering if once the Coalition wins the struggle if they will continue by the same principles or will success and positions of power eventually corrupt them also? I can understand this.

It's easy to scream about injustices and make the necessary sacrifices to combat them, however once you have alleviated the situation, it becomes a hassle to continue on the path of righteousness. I believe that history proves this fact out. However, that is a worry we will have to consider and safeguard against at a much later date. For now the battle is before us, and you have to have something before you attempt to keep it pure.

I sincerely believe that the Coalition is the organization that we need. I am impressed with the people I have met who are connected with it. I look forward to my release and the opportunity to do my part on the front lines. I don't have any fantastic qualifications and most of my education is self-learned. But I have a good head, a strong and willing heart, and I have dreams of a better life for our people. I do believe that Uptown can be a starting point for our people across this country. That is why I rapped so heavily on the importance of setting examples. Not only for the young in the neighborhood, but also for any other people who may be observing our struggles. In this game you have to be the message that you preach. If you preach that drugs are bad then you can't be getting high. Hypocrisy will deter people faster than anything else.

I am looking forward to receiving the new resolutions laid down by the Coalition. I want to stay abreast of all that is happening out there so that when I am released next year I will be in step and prepared to join right in.

It's time to return to this mad and chaotic world I am forced to exist in. I do hope all continues to go well with you and for you. Take care, be strong, be you!

All Love and Respect,
Richie

EDITORIAL

The People's Conventions Won't Be Televised

We watched over ten days as the Democratic and Republican Conventions were broadcast in boring detail to the nation. Now millions are asking the question: "Which candidate should I support?" or "Should I vote at all?" The answer is found in the hundreds of conventions, like the Heart of Uptown's, that weren't and will not be televised and broadcast to the nation.

Neither party and neither candidate represents us. We have to put our faith, our energy and our resources into building people's organizations at the grassroots level, and into building stronger and stronger coalitions from the bottom up. We must, because we have no other alternative, rely on our own peoples' organizations to get us the things we need to survive and force the changes in laws, and the government's administration of the laws, which we need.

While the grassroots movement for justice in the communities and on the job has been building, and while certain leaders have been flirting with the powerful and trying to gain a place in the Democratic Party, the Republican Party has been busy organizing its own grassroots movement. It appeals to every backward opinion and every bit of racism, prejudice and ignorance that exists among our people. It is well-financed, controlled tightly by big money, and dangerous to human beings all over the world.

The Democratic Party, after ignoring the grassroots for the last four years, is now asking our movement in the communities and in the unions to be "its" grassroots movement to fight Reagan and the insanity and inhumanity he represents.

We should defeat Reagan. This is a defensive move. Reagan could appoint four new judges to the Supreme Court, destroying civil rights and civil liberties in this country for the next 30 years. And Reagan will abolish every program for jobs, housing, health care, education and justice we have fought for. Finally, Reagan will put us at war all over the world and have us dying to defend corrupt dictators against true peoples' democratic movements. We need to defeat Reagan.

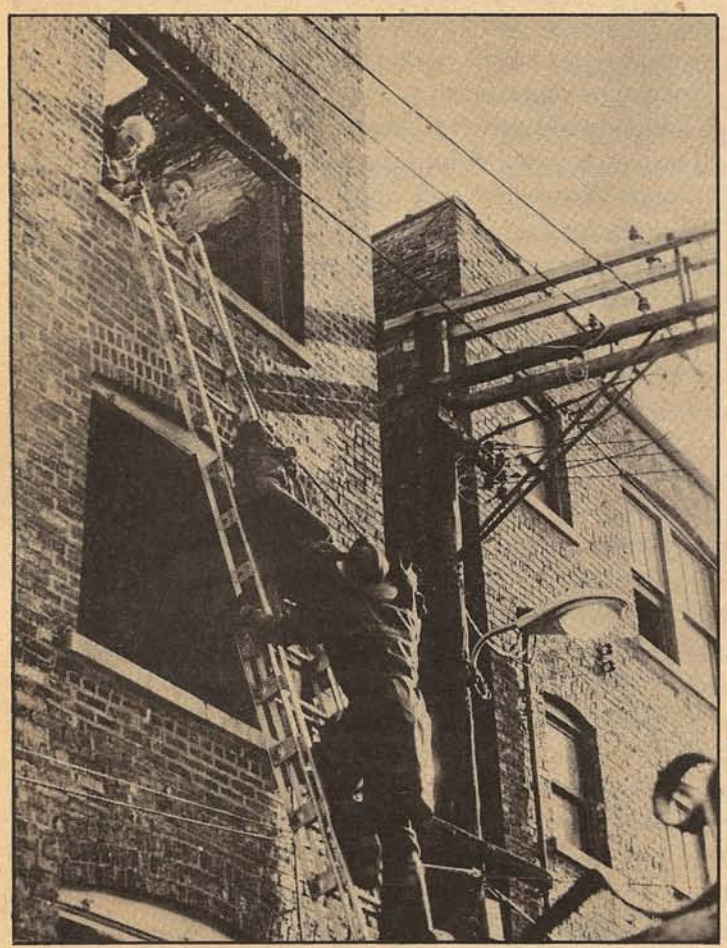
And we need not be fooled by Anderson, who is a dyed-in-the-wool Republican who will let the cities starve.

But we shouldn't give up our grassroots movement to anyone when we vote defensively against Reagan and Anderson. We must build and organize independently of either party and deep among our own people. And four years from now we should be strong and unified enough to negotiate a government more on our own terms. □

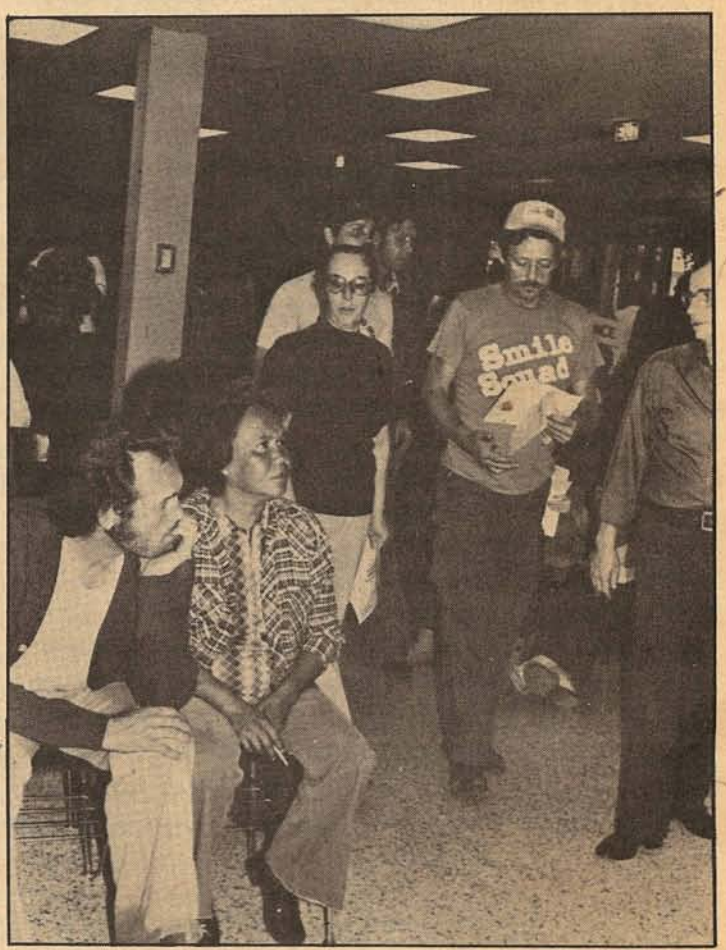
We must rely on our own people's organizations to get us the things we need to survive.

"There's been a war here, a real estate war, a land war. People have died. They have been killed by arson, by falling down buildings purposely neglected by speculators, by hospitals that refused our children and by police brutality. But the hearts of the Heart of Uptown are strong. They have unified and organized. We have won battles. We won't stop now. We have a chance to win the war."

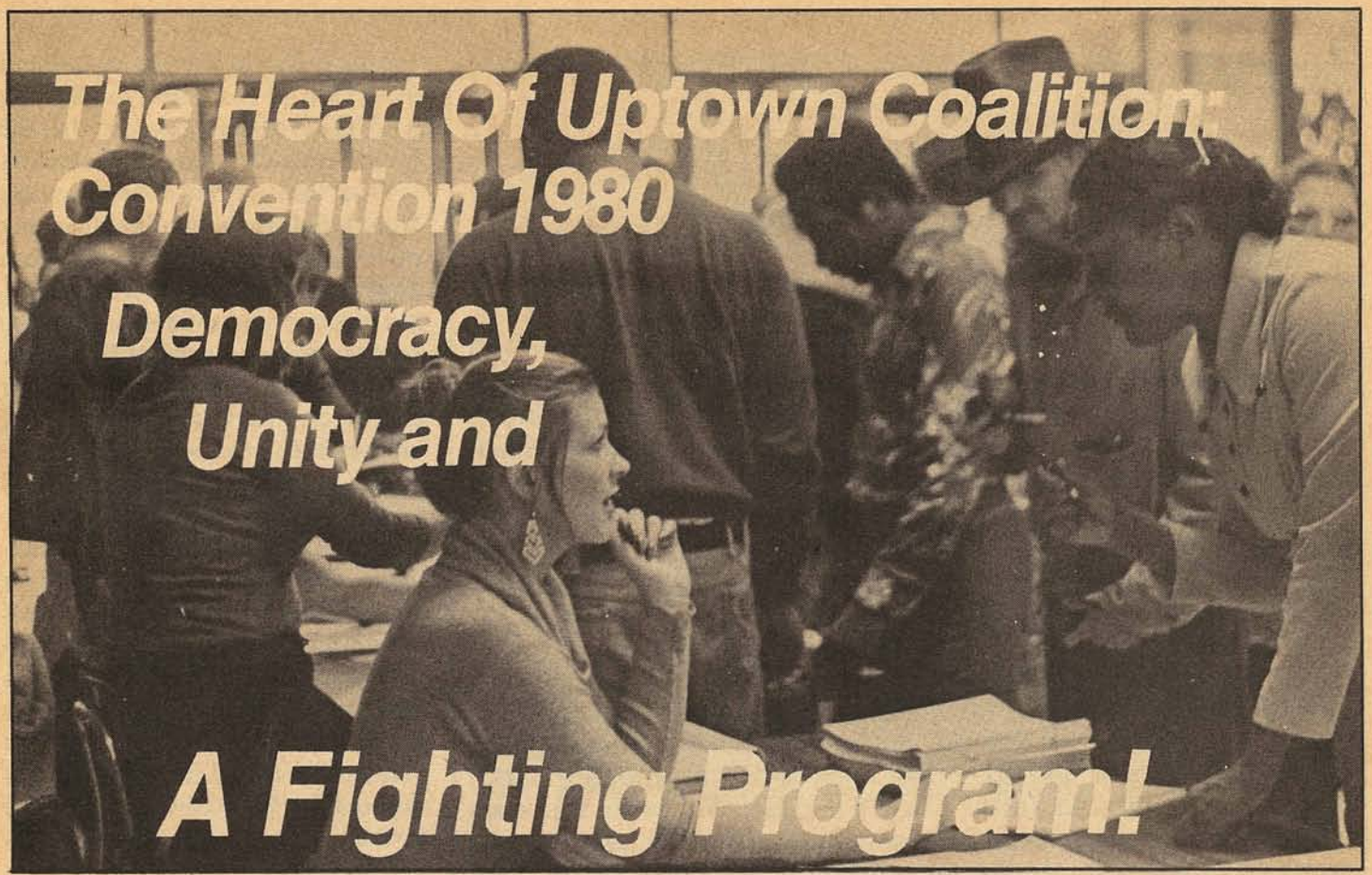
Slim Coleman
President
Heart of Uptown Coalition



The Heart of Uptown, 1970 to 1980:
5,000 people displaced, over 2,100 units destroyed, 40 killed by fire, a feeding ground for condo developers and real estate speculators of all stripes.



The Heart of Uptown Coalition Convention 1980:
1,800 attend a thoroughly democratic convention, review their victories and plan the next year's programs. Among these: a land-bank cooperative which will give residents voting shares in 2,000 new units of housing.



Over 1,800 Heart of Uptown residents, all dues-paying members of the Heart of Uptown Coalition, turned out to participate in the week-long HOUC Convention, in what Chicago observers are calling a "model in community democracy." As the membership struggled over some 32 resolutions to define next year's programs and priorities, you could feel the pride, wisdom and confidence of a people who were building and protecting a community against powerful forces who had sought to burn out, buy out, terrorize out and starve out the people of Uptown. Amid the hurricane-like war over the right to stay on Uptown's prized inner-city real estate, it was as if the membership had found the eye of the storm as they conducted an orderly, enthusiastic, democratic process of review and planning, with no voice from among them going unnoticed.

THE OPENING SESSION

Executive Director Jack Hart opened the convention to a packed auditorium at Truman College with introductions of the 31 candidates running for 20 at-large seats on the HOUC Board of Directors. Each candidate had gathered the support of at least 50 members on nominating petitions and, as Hart explained, no nominating committee or backroom dealers had chosen these candidates: they would be responsible only to the membership which had nominated them and would elect them. Hart carefully explained the convention agenda. Each night of the week a different topic would be considered—Displacement, Employment, Education, Justice, and Health Care—resolutions would be submitted by the members, discussed, and voted up or down. The result would be the HOUC program for 1980 and 1981. All during the week members could cast their votes for candidates for the Board of Directors.

A standing ovation greeted HOUC Co-Chair Helen Shiller. She rose to review the accomplishments of the HOUC over the last year. As she reviewed the people's victories over slumlords, arsonists, developers and politicians; and the concrete gains in jobs, housing units and lives saved, the membership listened intently and responded again and again with thunderous applause. Shiller challenged the critics of the Coalition, who claimed that the HOUC was unrepresentative and its membership transient, to witness the convention and to match anywhere in Uptown the participation and democracy they would find there. As to the transiency of the people who make up the Coalition, Shiller said, "Let them tell Ms. Jones who is running

HOUC Convention 1980
The People Spoke

"I ran into this guy and he asked me where I lived. I told him I was living in Uptown. He said, 'Uptown, huh? That's the bottom of the barrel.' Whenever people were forced out from other neighborhoods they moved to Uptown because there was no place else to go.

"When I was in Germany, I was drinking beer. I asked the bartender what kind it was. He said, 'Comrade, that is the strongest beer we have. It's from the bottom of the barrel.'"

Modesto (Jr.) Rivera

"The employment problem in our community has steadily mounted so that only one out of five is gainfully employed. We must assert our rights as respected individuals and demand our right to work. We are not unemployable, but people who want to fulfill our own destinies with our own hands...Standing united with our brothers and sisters, we must pave the way and again demand work for all. I'm not talking about jobs that only pay nickels and dimes, but a decent living wage..."

Tom Reeves

"The parents should be able to say if a teacher is qualified to teach their children or not; whether that teacher is qualified for our area...We should know what our children are learning, and what they're not learning, and why they're not learning..."

Edweana Brock

"I think that we (the youth) should have use of Truman College to play basketball and other activities, because there's not many facilities that you can go to around here. The only one I know is the Hull House, and that's only in the summer time. When winter time rolls along, there isn't much you can do. There's nowhere to go except maybe way out by the suburbs, or over by the YMCA, but they're closing that..."

Brian Bowling

"If you just write one letter to your congressman, that doesn't do any good, but if he gets 40 letters a day (on the same subject), then that does some good...That is the only way you're going to win, is with an organization behind you... I fought for Black Lung (benefits) by myself and didn't get anywhere...then I got in with these guys (CABLA) and started moving...It doesn't happen over night..."

Richard Ricono

for the Board of Directors, who has lived here 46 years or Cecil Hardy, who has lived here 35 years, that the HOUC membership is transient. It is true that we have been moved from building to building, and that many of our members have been displaced from other communities, but the average residency of those running for the Board of Directors, for example, is over 12 years. We are here, this is our community, and we intend to stay."

The next speaker, introduced as having a "surprise announcement" was HOUC attorney James Chapman. Chapman announced to a roaring crowd that the community's lawsuit against the county had been successful, and that the Uptown People's Health Center would stay open and under the control of its community Board. Chapman introduced Bill Hart, co-counsel in the lawsuit, who received great applause, as the membership was reminded that the heath center, which thousands of people had fought for over three years, was still theirs.

The last of the Coalition speakers was HOUC President Slim Coleman. Coleman explained the resolutions that had come out of the HOUC committees and placed special emphasis on the HOUC demand for a landbank and community development cooperative. He announced that negotiations with HUD and the Chicago Housing Authority had produced commitments for 1200 new units of low-income housing. The units would be under the control of a cooperative in which any resident of the Heart of Uptown could be a shareholder and a voting member. What remained was for the Mayor of the City of Chicago to agree to grant $1 million in land acquisition funds and to cooperate with HUD and CHA in the development and rehabilitation of the housing units.

As Coleman explained, the land-bank cooperative proposal would not only bring new housing and construction jobs into the community, it would be a resistance structure against real estate speculators and downtown developers. "The cooperative plan would place low-income units on every block in our community, controlled by the current residents. If we are there, on every block, then the big speculators and developers won't come, because they won't be able to get those folks from Skokie and Florida and Winnetka to buy condominiums when they have to live next to us. The best way for a community to stay on the land is to own it collectively, and that is what we propose. Our cooperative proposal allows the people to determine the future of their own community, democratically, and it will bring in close to $150 million of federal money that would not otherwise come into the city. Can Mayor Byrne turn this down?"

Coleman concluded with these words: "If they take away our homes and our jobs, our right to health care and decent education and equal justice under the law, they will make us like the wind, and as the song says, 'There's nothing sounds like the wind in the night does / but you ain't afraid when you been washed in the blood like I was.' Miami is miles away as the crow flies, but Miami is only a heartbeat away as oppression cries. So let them be reasonable in responding to our reasonable requests, while reason is still in season."

The opening session then turned to statements of support and unity from other communities. Rev. Charles Koen, President of the National Association of Neighborhoods, had come to Chicago to express that, "what you are doing in

Top: Leading members of CABLA met with Dr. Donald Rasmussen, a noted Black Lung expert. Dr. Rasmussen also spoke at the occupational health meeting. Bottom: HOUC members casting their ballots for the Board of Directors after one of the evening sessions.

Uptown is an example for communities all over the nation." Koen also announced that the National Association of Neighborhoods was organizing a national delegation to visit with Mayor Byrne to ask her to support the landbank cooperative. The spirit of unity continued as Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization Executive Director Bob Lucas said that "together, we will get what we have a right to, and we won't give up our right to criticize the government when we take it." Marion Stamps brought the Uptown crowd standing and chanting to its feet urging them to remain strong and unified and fighting. Statements were made by Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda from CASA-HGT, State Representative Ellis Levin, and Lea Lambertson, Co-Chairperson of the organization of the Northeast.

An open microphone allowed the membership to speak for the next hour and then the opening session was over and the week-long work of developing the HOUC's program and electing its officers began.

A FIGHTING PROGRAM

No less than 200 people attended each of the five evening sessions on anti-displacement (housing), employment, health care, education and justice. The final session, sponsored by the Black Lung Association, featuring panelists such as Bill Worthington, Chairman of the Regional Black Lung Association, Dr. Linda Murray, and Dr. Donald Rasmussen, renowned occupational health expert, drew nearly 400 people.

The most important part of the program sessions was the debate over the resolutions. In all, 197 people came to the microphone during

The newly elected HOUC Board of Directors. Board members do not just attend meetings; they are people who are active in the community programs, and are working to make the Heart of Uptown Coalition a truly democratic organization.

the week to argue for a program, a point of view, or to place a priority on one issue over another. All debates were settled by majority vote.

New ideas came from the floor, such as the suggestion to develop a "people's lease," with tenant responsibilities and landlord responsibilities which, jointly developed by a committee of tenants and landlords, could be taken to small building owners who sincerely wanted to stay in the community and provide low and moderate income housing.

And demands and programs, such as the landbank cooperative, were rediscussed and modified, misunderstandings cleared up and new priorities set.

When the five sessions were over, a community had spoken and had its own fighting program.

THE ELECTIONS AND THE FINAL CELEBRATION

All week long the Coalition's membership campaigned and voted for candidates they knew and had nominated from among themselves. The results of the elections were announced to great excitement at the Coalition's Fifth Annual Survival Day. While the new Board of Directors was reciving congratulations all around, a crowd of over 1200 gathered on the Sunnyside Mall to eat a home-cooked chicken dinner and dance and listen to the music of the "Countryside Cowboys" and several local artists.

An impressive week of community democracy and resistance was over: a year's work ahead laid out and a clear message delivered to those in power: the people are organizing themselves in organizations which they control; they cannot be fooled and tricked and ignored much longer.

The 1980-81 HOUC Program In Part

HOUSING

1. The development of a Heart of Uptown Landbank and Community Development Cooperative with set asides of funding and resources from HUD, CHA and the city making possible the building or rehabilitation of 1,300 apartments for current residents at reasonable (subsidized) rents and allowing the community-at-large control over significant land-use in the Heart of Uptown.
2. The Coalition should continue its independent development of new and substantially rehabbed low income housing through the Grass Roots Development Corporation.
3. The Coalition should step up its anti-displacement activities aiming at those developers and slumlords attempting to control large blocks of buildings in the Heart of Uptown community.

HEALTH CARE

1. The Coalition should continue to struggle for community control of the Uptown People's Health Center and an extension of its services.
2. The Coalition should support the Chicago Area Black Lung Association in its efforts to maintain and improve Black Lung benefits and in the fight to extend Black Lung type benefits to other occupational diseases like Asbestosis and Brown Lung.

EDUCATION

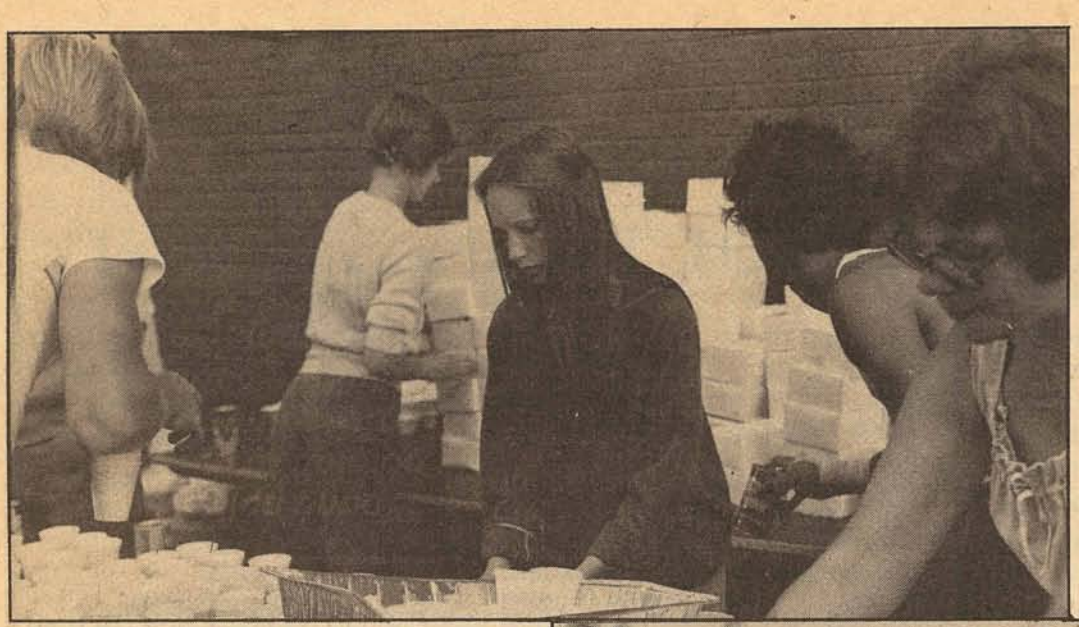
1. The Coalition should support the development of a Parent's Congress in the Heart of Uptown and city-wide that has the power to boycott the schools if the Congress is not given a seat at the bargaining table.

EMPLOYMENT

1. Recognizing that 60 percent of the city's unemployment falls on only ten of its neighborhoods, the Coalition should fight for a program of public hiring that gives absolute priority to these ten neighborhoods.
2. The Coalition should step up its fight to insure that any contractors operating in the Heart of Uptown hire from the community.
3. The Coalition should support the expansion of job training programs such as the one operated by the Keep Strong Publishing Company.

JUSTICE AND YOUTH

1. The Coalition should fight for an end to police abuse of community residents and misuse of police power in our community.
2. The Coalition should support the development of a program to provide support for men and women returning from prison to the community.
3. The Coalition should assist organization of Community Responsiblity Committees on a block-by-block basis to resolve contradictions between youth and other residents of the community, and support recreation and education programs.
4. The Coalition should support a program to fight for the rights of undocumented residents of our community.



Survival Day 1980

What The HOUC Has Accomplished

1. Community Law Office – Through the efforts of the HOUC, a fully staffed Community Law Office has been formed, governed by a Community Board that has and continues to service thousands of housing and other legal problems. A special team has been developed to give the community support in fighting developers and slumlords that has gained national recognition.

2. Four Year College – Through the efforts of the HOUC, a four year college has been developed, now part of Elmhurst College, that specializes in developing community leadership with the technical and academic skills necessary to be effective.

3. Food Cooperatives – The Operation Community Solution Food Cooperatives grew from the HOUC and provide weekly savings on food through the power of collective buying.

4. Uptown People's Health Center – The HOUC's two-and-a-half year struggle and planning led to the formation of a multi-million dollar comprehensive health center in Uptown. When the County Board tried to cut out the funding for the Center, the HOUC negotiated, demonstrated and finally went to court to maintain the health center and the principle of community control.

5. Chicago Area Black Lung Association – The HOUC assisted victims of Black Lung in developing the very important Chicago Area Black Lung Association, which has won hundreds of claims for its members, led the struggle for occupational health facilities in Uptown and is fighting for occupational health and safety for all workers.

6. Printing Company and Training Program – Through the efforts of the HOUC, the Keep Strong Publishing Company has been developed and maintained. It provides printing services to community organizations in Uptown and throughout the city, trains young people in printing and graphic arts and publishes Keep Strong Magazine.

7. Comprehensive Housing Plan – The HOUC developed the first comprehensive survey and housing plan for the Heart of Uptown area, with input from thousands of residents in the Heart, and since then has led the fight to gain recognition for that plan from the city and federal government.

8. New Housing Development – The Coalition established the not-for-profit Grass Roots Development Corporation which has applied for federal funding to develop 40 units of new or substantially rehabilitated housing in the next year.

9. Campaign Against Arson – The HOUC investigated arson in the Uptown community for four years and then brought in the Better Government Association and ABC's 20/20 to expose and back off the treacherous Charlie Roberts gang of arson profiteers.

10. Successful Negotiations With Big Developers – The HOUC brought big developers such as Bill Thompson to the table and forced them to provide housing and jobs for current Uptown residents in what they developed – or kept them out of Uptown.

11. Confrontation With Slumlords – The HOUC took on slumlords like Malisoff and brought them to the table to negotiate and to improve their buildings and change their management.

12. Emergency Fire Patrol – The HOUC responded to the firemen's strike by putting pressure on the city to settle the strike with a strong downtown demonstration and by establishing its own emergency fire patrol which located ten potentially serious fires during the strike and either put out the fires or contained them until fire units finally came.

13. Employment Program – The HOUC's Employment Program has developed a large pool of unemployed workers in the community with specifically recorded skills and has worked to require contractors that come into Uptown to hire from the pool. In addition, through the HOUC, hundreds of residents were hired to work in the census and a summer youth program was developed for 50 CETA employed residents.

14. Welfare Defense – Literally thousands of welfare recipients and social security beneficiaries have been assisted in getting what they have a right to out of the government bureaucracy. The Welfare Defense Union fought successfully for a cost of living increase and from time to time has had troublesome caseworkers removed.

15. Voter Registration – The Coalition has assisted in the registration of over 5,000 voters in the Heart of Uptown over the past few years, insuring that the politicians will have to pay attention to the demands of community residents.

16. The Public Schools – The HOUC Education Committee has been active in solving local school problems, fighting the cuts downtown, and has recenty begun to organize a strong Parent's Congress.

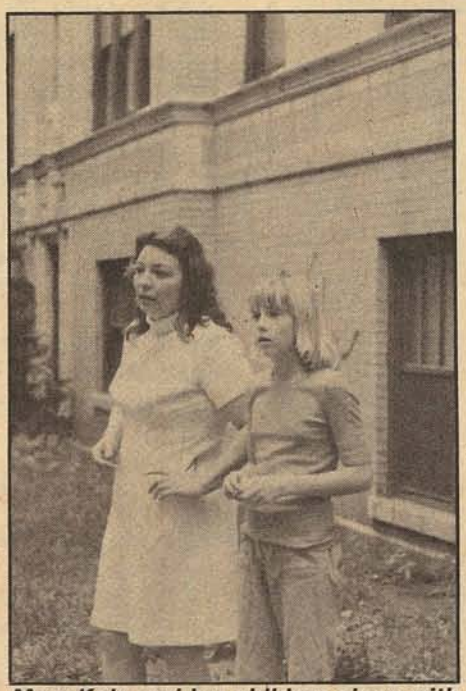
17. Emergency Hotline – The HOUC maintains a 24-hour emergency hotline through the Uptown Community Service Center, which is almost never quiet, as fire, housing, police, and health emergencies are responded to by Coalition volunteers.

18. Youth Programs – From the anti-glue campaigns to the baseball recreation programs; the HOUC is not only concerned constantly with the problems of the youth of Uptown, but the youth of the Heart of Uptown play a very strong role in the Coalition in all of its activities.

19. City-wide Coalition – The HOUC is part of, and has helped to develop, strong city-wide coalitions of community organizations such as the Chicago Rehab Network, the Employment Action Coalition and the Chicago Association of Neighborhoods.

Peoples Gas
Monopoly Without Mercy

How can the average person fight one of the city's largest companies? "It's not easy" is the conclusion and experience of over 100 people living in North Lakeview and Albany Park. Mrs. Joanne Powers of 1830 W. Byron is faced with a $1,200 bill from Peoples Gas. She knows she shouldn't have to pay it. Even though their rents are paid up, 85 tenants at Ainslie and Kedzie have had their gas cut off because their landlord owes $16,000. Despite yearly profits of over $100 million since 1976, Peoples Gas doesn't care one bit. Peoples Gas doesn't care since they are a monopoly: "If you don't like the way they do business who can you go to?"



Mary Kain and her children along with over 85 other tenants, had their gas shut off for four days.

North Lakeview

"It's been a frustrating experience," says Mrs. Powers. "The gas company makes you think you're crazy." Two years ago the Powers had an $826 bill for the '78-'79 heating season. This year the bill for the '79-'80 season soared to over $2,000. The Powers couldn't figure out how the bill got so high after they had installed a new fuel-efficient furnace and insulated their home.

"Peoples Gas claimed we used twice as many heating units (therms) as the previous year, but it's impossible," says Mrs. Powers. The company tried to tell the Powers that rising fuel costs accounted for the high bill. They said that the cost of gas rose 30 percent between '78-'79 and '79-'80. That increase would amount to a $250 increase in their bill, not $1,200. Mrs. Powers looked up the average temperatures for the two heating seasons. 1980 was warmer and it had 31 less heating days.

"When we called Peoples Gas we kept getting the run-around. They finally sent someone out to test our meter. They said the meter was 'pulling less' than what it should. In other words our $2,000 bill was a bargain!"

Mr. and Mrs. Powers went to the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), a state agency that is supposed to regulate the monopolies (telephone, gas and electricity). The Powers got nowhere. "It's a farce," says Mrs. Powers. "They accept whatever the company decides."

Jerry Keenan, Director of the ICC's Consumer Affairs Department told KEEP STRONG that the ICC will work with any consumer who has a complaint. The ICC will call the utility and request a re-reading or a test of the meter. The Gas Company, however, determines whether the meter is inaccurate or not. "Out of 900,000 meters in the city, only a small percentage don't pull at an accurate rate," says Keenan. "The Gas Company usually will admit it if they do find a meter that isn't working properly." ly."

Keenan says the Powers can still file a formal complaint with the ICC. They will be given a hearing and they can bring a lawyer to represent their side. However, the Gas Company will also have their lawyers. Keenan says that the burden of proof is on the customer in disputes with the monopolies, making it hard for them to win a settlement. In other words the Powers would have to prove that the meter didn't function properly. If the ICC hearing doesn't come out in the customer's favor the Gas Company can be sued in the civil courts. Unfortunately, a lawyer would probably cost as much as the settlement you would like to win.

Albany Park

Stephan Cumes owed the Gas Company $16,000. The building he owns at Ainslie and Kedzie in Albany Park went without gas for four days during the first week of September. For the tenants in the building's 85 units, the shut-off was a bitter experience. "Children and senior citizens suffered the most," says Mary Kain, a tenant with two children. "The important thing to me was my children's basic care. You know, like being able to clean and cook. We have to clean every day in this 'Taj Mahal' just to keep ahead of the bugs. It wasn't just me," says Ms. Kain, "there are a lot

of older people who live here and you know that some of them must have gone hungry because they couldn't cook and they didn't have the money to go out and buy something to eat. It was a general mess. It was like you couldn't really live here and yet you had paid your rent."

Some of the tenants in the building have started to get organized. Debby Phillips, mother of a two-week-old baby, told KEEP STRONG, "We had about 90 people call the gas company but they said there was nothing they could do. There are four of us right now and we plan on getting more of us together to get ourselves reimbursed from the landlord for having to eat out for three days."

KEEP STRONG called Peoples Gas to find out if the company has a policy which protects tenants who have paid their rent, or children and senior citizens. A company spokesperson said, "We tell the landlord we are going to shut off the gas unless he pays the bill. We post the building saying we are going to shut off the gas. We don't have any policy as far as tenants go. They have to take it up with the landlord."□

Com Ed Extorts Family—Demands 25 Percent Of Income

The MacDonalds: "It's very discouraging trying to live on our limited income. This month we got a $55 bill for electricity. That's humanly impossible."

Last January Bob and Marilyn MacDonald, 1217 W. Sunnyside, fell behind in paying their electric bill. They called the Commonwealth Edison office and tried to arrange a plan to pay off the bill in monthly installments, but their offer was rejected. Instead, Com Ed sent workmen out to shut their power off.

Mrs. MacDonald explains what happened next. "We went to public aid—the utilities department. They set up a payment plan with the electric company for us. It was the same payment plan that I offered over the phone. Since they turned the electricity back on, the bills have jumped $10 to $20 a month. Before we were paying $30 to $35 a month, now we're paying $50 and $55 for just one month's electric bill.

"We objected to the bills being so big. They came out and reread the meter and said it looked all right. So we asked them to check the line. There was no way we were using 700 kilowatt hours a month. They refused to check the line without advance payment of a $20 service charge.

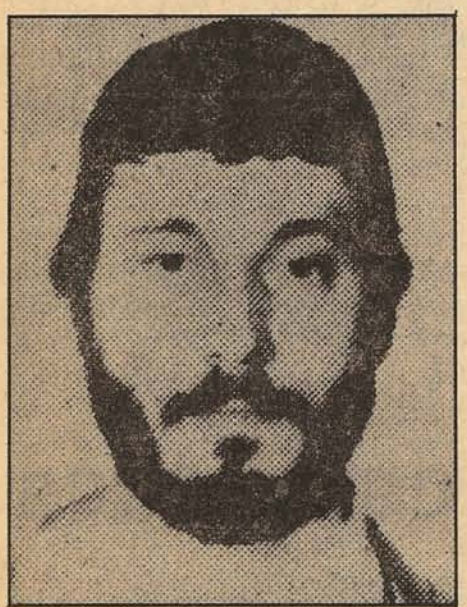
"It's very discouraging, trying to survive on our limited income. This month we got a $55 bill for electricity. That's humanly impossible. Above that we have to pay $20 off on our back bill and the $65 deposit that they demanded we put down. We get less than $300 a month from public aid and the electric company takes $75 out of it. They didn't tell us they wanted a deposit until six or seven months after we started getting service."□

Do Chicago Police Have The Right To Murder?

By Tom Johnson

Mr. Richard Ramey died July 6, 1980, after being beaten by three members of the Chicago Police Department's Mass Transit Unit. The same three—Fred Christiano, Louis Klisz and Fred Earullo had seriously beaten Mr. Richard Seager of Hamlin Park only weeks before. Mr. Ramey's murder began on a Jackson Park El train where he was accused of smoking a cigarette. Mr. Seager was attacked at the Wilson El stop. The police accused him of being too loud. He received 17 stitches in his head and was charged with three misdemeanors.

Mr. Seager filed a complaint with the police department's Office of Professional Standards (OPS), the organization which is supposed to investigate complaints of police brutality. The OPS did nothing. If the OPS had done its job, "Richard Ramey would probably be alive today," Mr. Seager told KEEP STRONG.

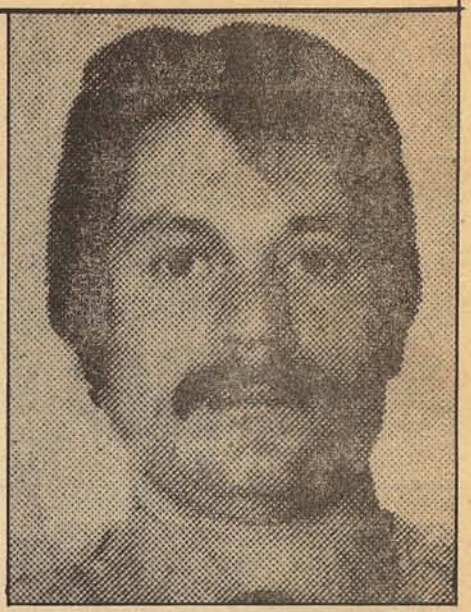


But justice is being pursued in and out of the courts. Throughout Chicago, community groups and individual citizens are raising their voices to protest against a police department which is out of control and responsible to no one.

Lawyers from the Uptown

People's Law Center have taken up the Seager case and succeeded in getting two of the charges against him dropped. They continue to pursue the third charge and are using legal channels to force the police to admit their wrong.

And on the southside, members of St. Martin's Parish, on Princeton Ave., have vowed to follow the case until it is concluded. Members of the church, where Mr. Ramey formerly ate lunch with a senior citizens' club, organized a meeting with State's Attorney Bernard Carey to demand aggressive prosecution of the three police.



The three Chicago police who murdered Richard Ramey: Top: Fred Christiano, Middle: Louis Klisz, Bottom: Fred Earullo.

The parishioners are angry that a fellow neighbor should be murdered by three police for smoking a cigarette. "It's just like killing somebody for stepping on your toes," one of the seniors told KEEP STRONG.

"And Mr. Ramey was such a harmless old man," added another. "He was a little touched maybe—a little bit funny in his own ways—but he never got mean and was always real nice and polite. He couldn't hurt anybody if he wanted to. He was just a skinny man who walked with a limp," the former companion said sadly.

So the angry southsiders confronted Carey at a community meeting and extracted a promise (in front of the TV lights) that Carey will fully and thoroughly prosecute the case. The next step in the battle is to make Carey keep his promise.

The fight will not be easy. The

three police have powerful allies among their fellow police officers and in the Teamster's Union—a labor organization which is trying to win a union drive within the Chicago Police Department.

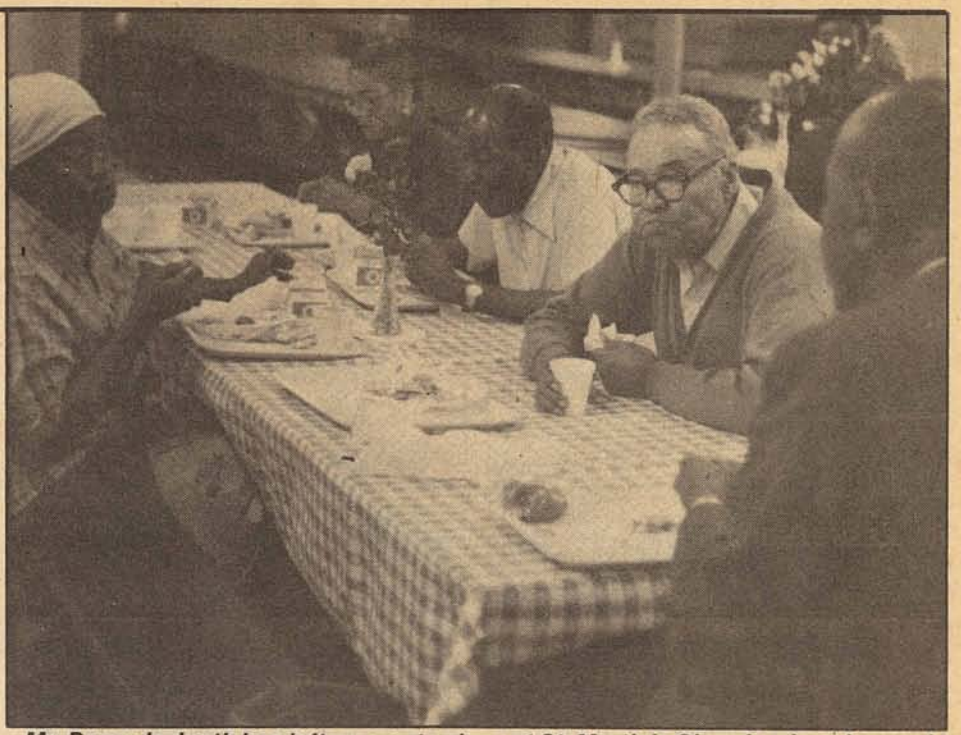
After Klisz, Earullo and Christiano were suspended from the Police Department, the Teamster's Union gave them high-paying jobs and tried to use them to organize police into the Teamster's Union.

Then, according to a highly-placed city official, the State's Attorney's Office wanted to let the three go free on Personal Recognizance Bonds (I-Bonds). They were to be back on the streets by virtue of a promise. The same official told a community leader that the threat of community protest, and even riots, forced the prosecutor's office to ask for the small bond that was given. The three police did not have trouble raising the money.

Are police above the laws they are supposed to enforce? The outcome of this trial will answer this question.

So the issue has been cleanly cut for all of us to see: Are police above the laws they are supposed to enforce? Do Chicago police have a license to murder?

The answers are in our hands, according to Reverend John A. Jamnicky, pastor of St. Martin's Church, "If people like Mr. Ramey—people who are sick, poor, crippled and weak—if these people cannot be tolerated in our society by the official representatives of law enforcement; if indeed, they are killed by them, then we are all in very serious trouble. We must act. We must act to bring justice to Mr. Ramey's memory. We must act for ourselves."



Mr. Ramey's death has left an empty place at St. Martin's Church, where he used to eat lunch. Says one of his friends, "It could have been me."

Already, Rev. Jamnicky and the seniors from St. Martin's have been to court for a pre-trial hearing. Little went on inside the courtroom except some legal maneuvers and a decision to continue the case. The real action happened outside the courtroom.

Police confronted demonstrators from around the city and attempted to intimidate the outraged citizens.

One "officer of the law" told a senior citizen that the three Mass Transit Unit officers "should get a medal," for what they had done. Another policeman taunted the crowd by saying "Hey, you want a cigarette, too?" Other comments from Chicago's "finest" cannot be printed.

Father Jamnicky reported that: "Young police are coming out to the court proceedings and insulting people with racist remarks. They

"Young police are coming to the court proceedings and insulting people with racist remarks."

are trying to intimidate us and show that the brutality exhibited by their fellow officers is OK in the Chicago Police Department.

"But we will continue to monitor this trial. We cannot let this kind of criminal activity go unpunished. These policemen committed a serious wrong and their penalty should be equivalent to the kind of crime they committed."

As one neighbor of Mr. Ramey reminded KEEP STRONG, "It could have been me." It could have been any of us.

The next hearing on the case is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Monday, October 20, at the Criminal Courts building at 26th St. and California Ave.□

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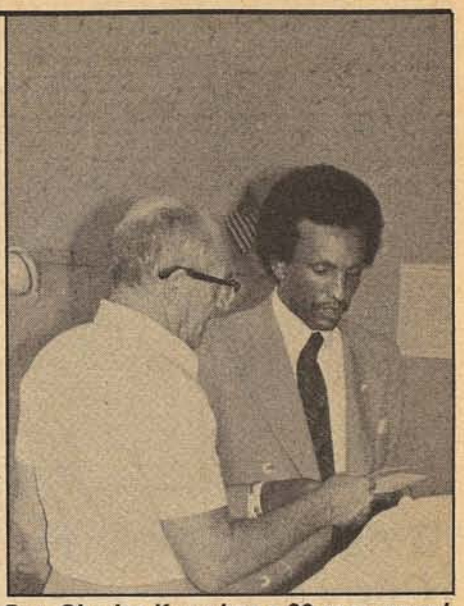
Cairo, Illinois Election A Clear Choice



Rev. Charles Koen has a 20-year record of working to achieve equality and justice in Cairo.

CAIRO, ILLINOIS—The November election will be a major step forward in the long struggle of the people in this small southern Illinois city to achieve equal representation in local government. Since near the turn of the century, all Cairo elections were held on a citywide basis instead of by neighborhoods or wards. A small clique of people has used this system to control city government. No Black people have been elected to city office for 67 years, although about half the population is Black. Now under a special federal court "consent decree," citizens will begin to elect representatives to the City Council from their own local districts.

On August 26th a Special Primary election was held in Cairo's two most predominantly Black wards. The run off will be November 4th.

The quality of the candidates also makes this a special election. Two candidates have distinguished track records in working for community improvement and standing up for human rights. Ernest Morgan in the 2nd Ward and Rev. Charles Koen in the 3rd Ward have each signed a contract with the citizens of their ward, clearly stating their positions on the important issues which the city faces and pledging to represent, consult and inform the residents of their wards.

The local clique headed by Mayor Al Moss, which has run city affairs by closed door government and intimidation, has thrown its support to two other candidates, neither of whom has any record of public service or working to open up city government to the people. Neither candidate has spoken out in this election on issues that face the city.

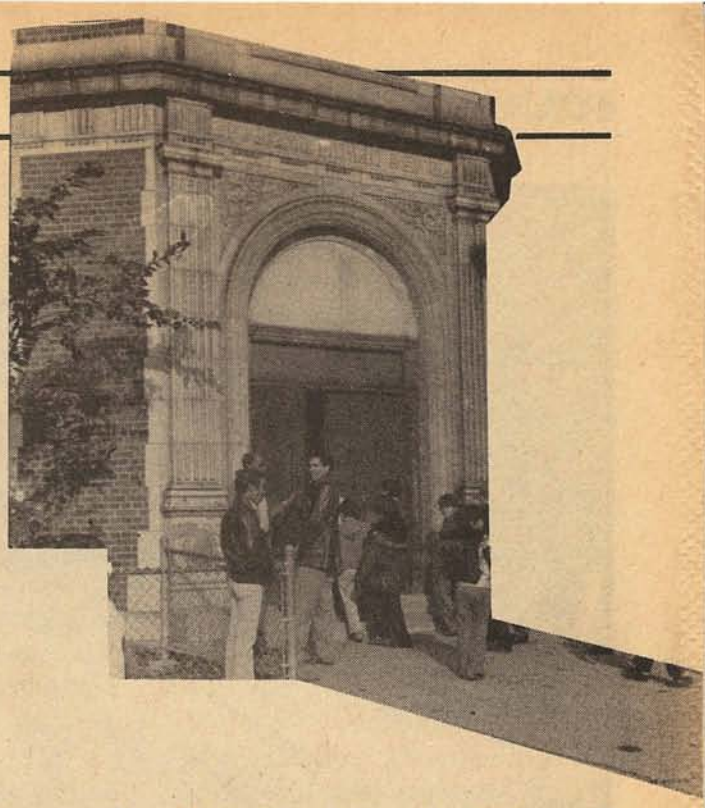
On the other hand, Rev. Koen, head of the United Front in Cairo, has a 20-year record of working to achieve equality, improved housing, better education, economic development and justice in Cairo. Koen, who has a Master's Degree in community development, has presented a detailed program for revitalizing Cairo in the interests of *all* citizens. Morgan, a Vietnam veteran, has always spoken up for his district in City Hall. Active in the church and community affairs, improved housing is at the top of the list of Morgan's program of action.

Improved housing is one of the main concerns of Ernest Morgan.

The August 26th primary was held in the midst of attempts by the old line clique to intimidate voters in what some veteran observers called "one of the dirtiest efforts to hold onto power" that they had seen in years. But Cairo voters know that they have an historic opportunity to begin to open up city government and to rebuild their city. Faced with a clear choice between candidates who have proven that they are committed to the people of Cairo, and candidates who represent more of the same closed door government, the voters of Cairo will undoubtedly say "YES" to the people's candidates, Charles Koen and Ernest Morgan, on November 4th. □

EDUCATION

Something's Happening Here — What It Is Ain't Exactly Clear



Imagine a six-year-old child sitting at a desk. Someone walks over and dumps the pieces to a jigsaw puzzle in front of him. There are 200 pieces. A voice says, "Put the pieces together to make the picture." The child picks up a piece and sets it in front of him. "Now what?" The voice says, "Try another piece and fit it to the first one. Keep trying until you master it."

Continuous Progress Mastery Learning (CPML) is the name of the puzzle. The Chicago Board of Education dumped the pieces into the public school system over a decade ago. No one, as of yet, has seen the picture. Students, parents and teachers are trying to put the pieces together, hoping it's a picture of quality education.

Sissy had a head start on the puzzle because she could read before she started first grade. "At Stockton school they go by reading levels," she explains. "I'm high in reading but not in math." She's in fifth grade and is on Level K in reading and Level H in math. Sissy was put in a fifth grade room last year when she was still a fourth grader. The change presented problems.

Sissy says the teacher "expected me to go faster in math. She'd get mad when I didn't finish. I'd get mixed up and ask questions and I'd ask again and she'd get mad."

"Sissy was a nervous wreck," says her mother. "Not all kids are good at everything. If the school judges you by reading and you're terrible in math but you're expected to be good in that too—well, the kids just get upset and frustrated. That's what happened to Sissy. She just didn't want to go to school."

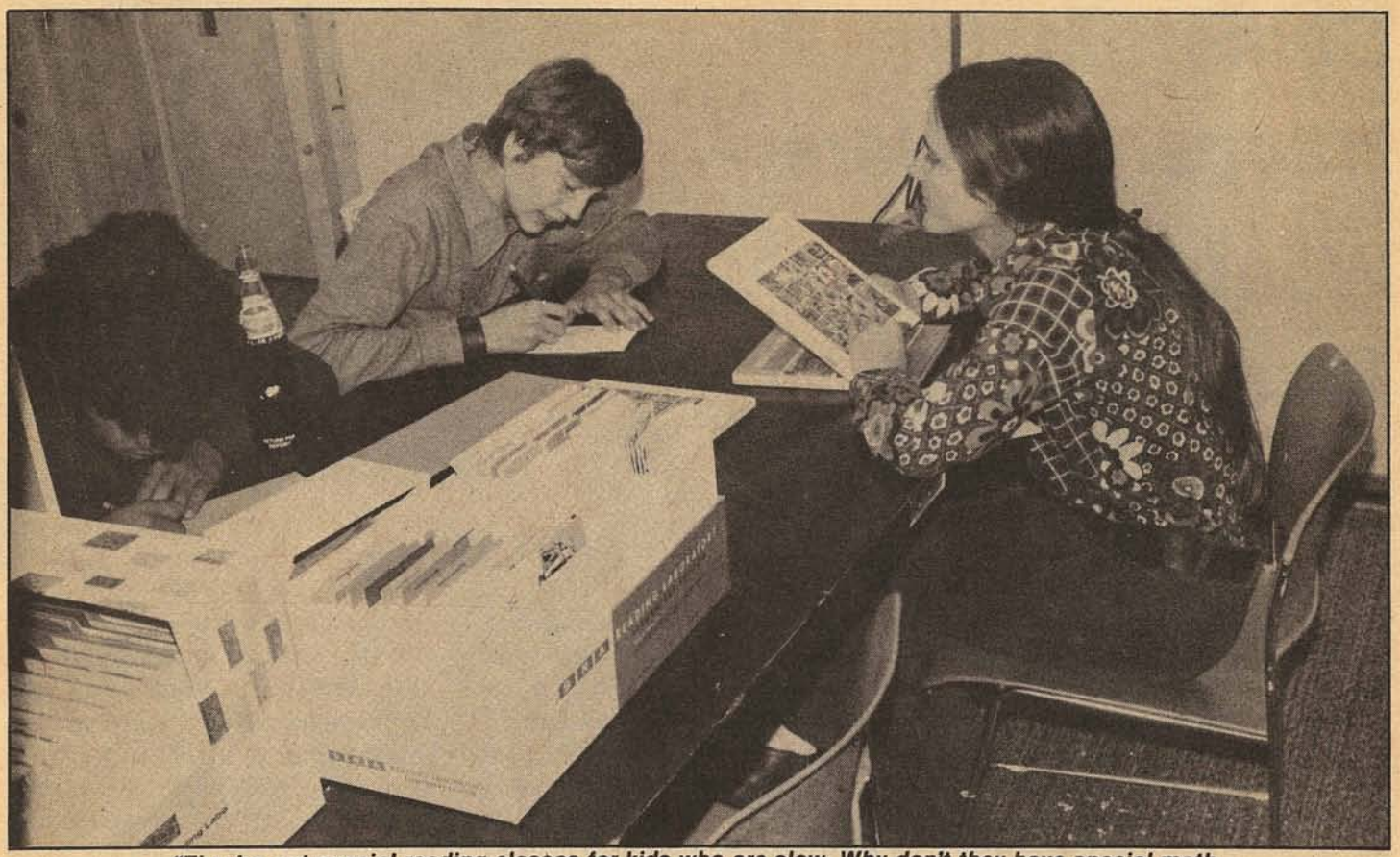
"When I did my math," Sissy explains, "the other kids went real fast. The teacher wouldn't let me use my times table chart to help me get the answer. I couldn't figure it out so I got bored and just didn't try to do it."

"...the kids just get upset and frustrated. That's what happened to Sissy. She just didn't want to go to school."

Sissy has trouble putting the puzzle together in her mind. "I know it [CPML] means to learn all the time. But I still don't know my times tables. They've got special reading classes for kids who are slow. Why don't they have special math classes for kids slow in math? If you get a good education it helps you get a good job. But if I can't do math, how am I going to get a good education?"

Sissy's mother has gone beyond asking questions, though: she is disgusted. "I think it's a stupid system. I don't really understand it and no one's really explained it to me. I think each level means you're getting better." She hesitates, trying to put some pieces together, then concludes. "Personally, I think they're doing a lousy job. Either that or there's an awful lot of dumb kids. They know more these days and the kids know less. They keep the kids confused—they get disgusted."

In Sissy's case things just didn't fit together. Her reading level was K (late 4th grade) and her math level was H (late 3rd grade). She was put into a 5th grade room and expected to do 5th grade math with 3rd grade skills.



"They've got special reading classes for kids who are slow. Why don't they have special math classes for kids slow in math?"

Maybe extra help in a special math class for slow learners would improve Sissy's math to a point where it's even with her reading level. Maybe then everything would come together.

"I was in a class for slow learners," Bobby says. "If you don't understand the stuff, the teacher just explains it over in the same way. You can't learn nothing by that. Then they say, 'figure it out for yourself.' If you can't figure it out for yourself you just get a 'U' [unsatisfactory]."

Bobby graduated from Bright School last year. He's at Washington now and doing fine in regular classes. Continuous Progress Mastery Learning is supposed to allow a child to progress at his own speed. But for some reason if a child is progressing too slowly they get put into another program. Bobby was in EMH (Educably Mentally Handicapped). He decided to just forget the puzzle and threw all the pieces away.

"I didn't do nothing and they passed me. I graduated! They even graduated kids that didn't pass the Constitution test."

"I didn't do any of the work for two years. I fell behind. They say you ain't going nowhere in life. I asked the teacher if I could try my regular book. I told her I'd do the work if she put me on the right level. She said, 'I can't. You have to work up to it.' I told her that she could do it if she wanted to. She goes, 'Well, I'm not going to.' I said, 'Well, I won't do no work.' And I didn't. I didn't do nothing and they passed me. I graduated! They even graduated kids that didn't pass the Constitution test. How can that happen?"

If you're too slow to keep up with the Continuous Progress program

then the system concludes that you have a handicap. You need special attention. But how is it a kid can be too slow for one program, boycott learning for two years, then be able to jump right back into the program he was too slow for two years before and function just fine? Nothing adds up, except maybe you can explain the two-year boycott because of a bad teacher.

"I was a high school teacher in Home Economics. Then last year I got assigned to Farren. They needed a teacher in a particular room." The young woman shakes her head and continues, "Just like that I went from high school to elementary kids. I didn't know what I was doing. But I knew I was failing with my kids."

Naomi Jenkins is a young teacher who believes any child will learn if they're self-motivated. "The idea of education is to give information to the kids so that they can deal with the real world. If they miss the importance then you make school a chore. Then they see it as simply, you get an education, you get a job. You're not exposed to reality in school."

Naomi is a product of the Chicago public schools. She taught for a couple of years and liked it. She felt her students appreciated her. Naomi knew nothing about Continuous Progress because at the high school the program was not implemented. In high school the system changes. She was unprepared for her responsibilities at Farren.

"I had 36 kids," she begins, "sixth and seventh graders. I split them into two levels. I didn't know how to start and no one helped me. I didn't have an aide."

"The idea of education is to give information to the kids so that they can deal with the real world. If they miss the importance of that then you make school a chore."

"I had 36 kids, sixth and seventh graders...I didn't know how to start and no one helped me. I didn't have an aide."

"I had to use a seventh grade book even though the kids' levels were from second to fifth grade. I used slower books to supplement. We spent alot of time on words they should have known but didn't.

"There were too many kids to give special attention to all of them. You want to give up but you also want to succeed—somewhere. If you have 36 kids and 25 of them are really slow you pay attention to the faster ones.

"Everyone else wrote the class off—just keep them in the room and quiet. I was half crazy. It was a two-teacher room and in November another teacher came in. He left in a few weeks. These kids didn't get a real teacher until January and they lost half a year.

"Now why would they (the school) set up a class without a teacher?"

Why would they set up a system of levels, grades and groups that creates its own contradictions?

Why do they talk about mastering skills but not about the information children need to understand the world around them?

Why are we kept so busy fighting budget cuts, open campuses and Board of Education guidelines that we have no time to put together the puzzle that remains a jumble?

There's something happenin' here, and what it is ain't exactly clear. □

Parents' Voice

By Joanne Jacobsen

I have had children in the public schools of Chicago for many years.

The quality of education has always been poor in Chicago, but it seems to be at its lowest right now. The attitude seems to be that just because these kids live in a poor neighborhood, they are not capable of learning. If they have a learning disability, it is because of their environment, not because they have a mental, or sometimes even a physical problem. That could happen to any child from any nationality, race or neighborhood; rich or poor.

"the quality of education ...seems to be at its lowest right now."

About eight years ago, I took my kids and moved to Iowa, my home state. My oldest daughter had played hookey so much in Chicago and hated school, so that she was failing and in trouble with the school system. When we went to Iowa she started taking an interest in school and was making good grades and finally graduated, which she would not have done if we had stayed in Chicago. She finally realized how much she really liked school and encouraged her brothers and sisters to study harder and to overcome the lack of learning that they had from Chicago schools.

When it comes to finding out how a child is doing in school, the only time the school will volunteer any information is if the child is a troublemaker and then they expect you to be at the school whenever they want you to be. If your child is doing okay, you almost have to beg to talk to the teacher. My daughter's homework was not satisfactory to me and I wanted to talk to the teacher and she sent a note stating that she was doing all right and I needn't bother to go to the school. But my son, who is always in trouble, is another story. His school is always after me to come to school at their convenience, regardless of whether I'm at work or not. Then they make a parent feel (or at least they make me feel) like nothing. My son is in special education classes and they put me through a third degree questioning about things that to me have nothing to do with his problem. His problem is mostly physical, but he also has some mental problems which stem from these physical problems. I have refused to answer some of the more personal ones and I have been labeled as uncooperative and maybe just a little retarded myself. Anyway, that is the way I have come away from some of these conferences feeling. I had the social worker from the school come to my job and take up two hours of my work time to take a history of my family from the time I was born, which the school nurse had just taken a couple of weeks ago on my day off (when I spent from nine to noon at the school). They keep me signing forms for tests that I never get the results of and, from what I gather, they have not even given him.

"...you almost have to beg to talk to the teacher."

It is my belief that if the teachers cannot teach or handle the kids with aides in the classroom, how can they be expected to do anything alone in a classroom? Instead of decreasing help they should be adding help.

There have been many instances around the Chicago area where if a teacher, especially a substitute, is too good they are transferred or just gotten rid of. If more of these teachers who really care could be placed in the troubled areas, I feel our kids would have a much better chance. Those who really care are so far and few between that the kids just don't see enough of them.

My son had one of these special teachers who really tried to help him and he was doing real good until she was transferred to another school and from then on, till the end of school, he was in constant trouble.

I believe that the parents have got to organize and fight the school system to make the schools a better place for our youth or our country has no future. The youth of today are our country of tomorrow. It is time the parents stood up and were heard.□

Chicago Parents Organize For Closed Campus Policy

Chicago – Hundreds of parents attended the September 10th Chicago Board of Education meeting and made "closed campuses" the issue of the day. According to Joanne Jacobsen, a mother from Uptown, the room was filled with parents from all over the city and there were about 150 parents in the hallway outside the meeting chanting "closed campus!"

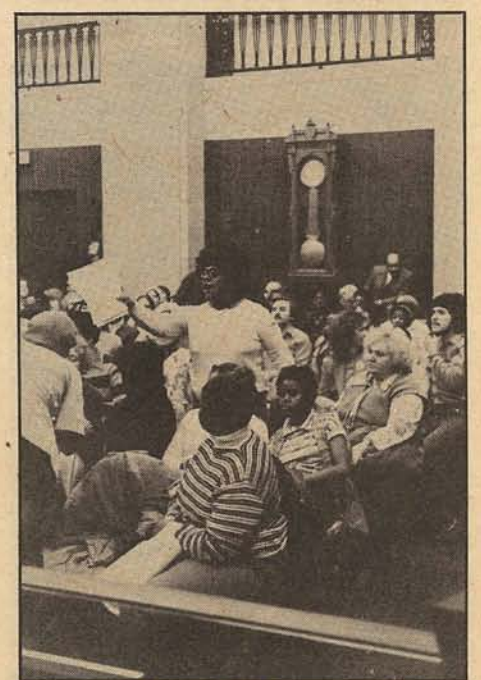
The Board of Education "reopened" the campuses without consulting parents or teachers.

In the early 1970s, unsafe conditions in many Chicago communities caused parents and teachers to organize to get "closed campuses": schools where the students are not allowed off-grounds during school hours. This year, without consulting either parents or teachers, the Board of Education "re-opened" these campuses. This means that the students will be free to leave school grounds at lunch time.

Gang fights, dope selling, and the high incidence of rape were some of the reasons cited by Ella (Queenie) Alexander for reinstating the closed campus policy. Ms. Alexander, a parent from Hefferan School and President of the West Central District PTA, challenged the School Board members to, "Come walk with me on the west side between 12 and 1. When these thugs come out you'll know what I mean. I've been here since '67 and I won't walk this community alone and neither will my children."

Ms. Jacobsen says, "There are too many wrong influences on the streets for children to be out wandering for an hour. There are more and more working parents who cannot be home at the noon hour."

The School Board gives two reasons for its decision. First, the State of Illinois says that students need more instruction time. (Some teachers have found that the new policy in reality has given the students less classroom time.) Second, because of budget cuts, about 200 enrichment teachers have been laid off. The enrichment teachers used to take over the classroom and the regular teacher could use that time for lesson preparation and other paper work. The teachers' union contract requires that they get a certain amount of time each week for preparation. The new lunch hour is supposed to meet that requirement.



The city-wide protest by parents forced the reinstatement of the Closed-campus policy at many Chicago schools.

"Parents are ready to picket these schools!" said Ms. Alexander. Parents from her west side community, which includes Hefferan, Faraday, Hays and other schools, are ready to hold a boycott by keeping their children home from school unless they are able to get the closed campus policy back.

Many parents from the Pilsen area were present at the meeting. Inez Loredo, a parent and President of the Pilsen Neighbors Community Council, voiced the opinion of the parents. "The children come first and we don't want to hear anything about an open campus!"

As a result of the parents' action, the Board of Education has agreed to allow the district superintendents to close campuses at their discretion. The superintendant must write a letter to the Board requesting a closed campus policy at a particular school.

The parents who attended the meeting are not going to assume that they got what they wanted. Ms. Loredo says, "We'll see what the district superintendant does. And if we have to, we'll fight him too. The safety of our kids comes first."

Parents in other parts of the city began to organize right away. Sue Williams, of the North Lakeview Parent Congress, explained, "We went to the Board of Education on Wednesday and found ourselves

with parents from many schools who were protesting the open campus policy. By the end of the week, we had read in the newspapers that parents could petition for closed campus. We put together a petition and got 80 signatures in six hours. We gave the petition to the principal [of Blaine School] on Monday. Then we went to the district superintendent and gave her the same petition. It was our feeling that while the official policy changed, parents had to play a key role in implementing closed campus.

Pat Clemmons from the Canaryville Parent Congress summarized the concern of parents in her neighborhood, "We are mainly concerned for the safety of our kids. Our concern is the same as other parents in the city who don't want their kids on the street at lunch time. We drew up a petition to take to the district superintendent to let him know we want a closed campus. Several of us went out and got 260 names in a matter of hours. Everybody is signing it. We're sending a copy to the principal at Graham, the superintendent and the School Board for the record. We'll keep fighting until we get it."□

Public Schools Open Amid More Cuts

By George Schmidt

When Chicago's more than 600 public schools opened their doors on September 3, there was relief throughout the city. For several months it had been predicted that the Chicago Teachers Union would strike if the Board of Education went through with a package of cuts that included removing more than 1,200 teacher aides. The strike was averted, by a last minute agreement between the Board of Education and the union which restored the jobs of the teacher aides (at least in principle) while the union agreed to a two-day layoff at the end of the school year and other, minor, items.

While the union was negotiating to save its two-year contract (due to expire on August 31, 1981), the Board of Education was laying off teachers faster than the Department of Teacher Personnel could process the layoff notices. During the last two weeks of August, 1980, more than 1,200 full-time teachers received layoff notices. The largest layoff of teachers in the history of the city was taking place, while public and media attention was focused on the negogiations. It wasn't until August 26 when Substitutes United for Better Schools (S.U.B.S.) raised the issue of teacher layoffs in a press conference that this was revealed and discussed publicly.

Beginning on Friday, August 15, Board of Education officials were mailing full time teachers letters that began "Dear Colleague: We regret to inform you that...." Tenured teachers in a dozen subject areas lost their jobs and were advised by the Board to report as substitute teachers, whose pay and benefits are generally less than half what teachers had been earning full time. Physical education teachers with eight years in the system were either accepting demotions (which they didn't have to take) or appearing at local unemployment offices. Teachers with four and five years full time seniority were laid off in Business Education, Home Economics, Industrial Arts, English, Social Studies, Biology, and Science. Hardest hit were teachers of foreign languages; French and German teachers with more than ten years seniority have been laid off.

The first explanation for the drop in teachers offered by the Board of Education was that the number of students in the public schools was *expected* to decline by more than 17,000 since last year, justifying a reduction of teachers. When S.U.B.S. pointed out, however, that a reduction of teachers due to a one year drop of 17,000 students should be no more than 600 teachers (and that half of that number had already been laid off last January), some fancy math and footwork came into play to "explain" the layoff: drop in enrollment was one thing, it was said. Program cuts explained the rest.

S.U.B.S. said that the layoff was far in excess of the number that could be justified either through the drop in student enrollment or by

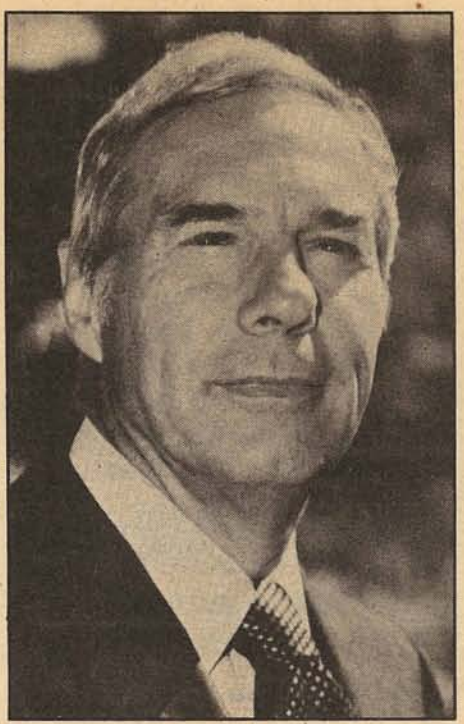
any other means including progressive cuts. They predicted (correctly-Ed.) that the layoff would place pressure on principals to increase class size or leave classes without teachers during the first weeks of school.

As the opening day of school neared, union officials were declaring that the public schools would have enough teachers for every class. Board of Education officials were silent on the subject. Both teachers and school principals, however, were expecting a "shortage" of teachers when classes opened. However, since the layoffs would be spread over more than 500 elementary and high schools, the task of showing the effect of the layoff and coordinating the information would be enormous. Since the Board of Education "saves" more than $100,000 per day for every day the needed teachers remain on layoff, even a two week delay in documenting the layoff and forcing the Board to place unemployed teachers back in the classrooms where they belong could "save" the Board $1 million—at the expense of the teachers who would be standing in line at unemployment offices and the students whose school year would start late despite the fact that the schools had "opened" on time.

What's behind the cuts?

The Chicago Public School Finance Authority, headed by Transcorp president Jerome Van Gorkom, is responsible for forcing the Board of Education to make the cuts.

The Finance Authority was formed to "save" the schools last winter after the city's banks refused to loan money to the Board of Education to meet short term bills. Because local school taxes are paid after the Board of Education has to pay its



Jerome Van Gorkum, head of the School Finance Authority: the group that controls the funds of Chicago's schools.

bills, the system always has to borrow money by issuing "tax anticipation warrants" and selling bonds to meet current expenses. The security for repayment of these notes, which amount to millions of dollars per year, is the tax money which will be collected later.

Last year's school "crisis" happened when the banks refused to loan the Board of Education any more money at old interest rates. Testimony before a special State Senate and House committee to investigate the Chicago public school crisis has asserted that the city's largest banks caused the crisis by refusing to make any more loans. The result was the failure of the Board of Education to meet its December 21, 1979, payroll.

A special "summit" meeting in Springfield at the beginning of January resulted in a proposal to establish the Finance Authority. The legislation was run through the State legislature in record time and gave Mr. Van Gorkom and his four assistants total power over the public schools. Now it is the Finance Authority, rather than the Board of Education, which sells bonds to raise money for the Chicago public schools. The Finance Authority then gives part of that money to the schools on the condition that the schools meet certain conditions: budget cuts.

In April and May, the Finance Authority sold the first $420 million in bonds at 10.25 percent interest (tax free), to investment consortiums (groups of financial institutions with a lot of money) in New York and Chicago. The interest on these funds, over the 29 year life of the bonds, will come to more than $1.1 billion. An additional bond issue will be sold this September.

Only the very rich can buy these bonds. Last winter, the Chicago Prinicipals Association pooled $250,000 in an effort to help the schools, offering to buy bonds. They were refused by the banks and bond houses: the $250,000 was "too little" and "too difficult to administer." Those who now hold the bonds, that will draw enormous profit from the school tax dollars of all Chicagoans, are the nation's richest individuals and institutions. They can afford to turn down a quarter of a million.

The plan that "saved" the schools is thus in fact a plan to guarantee usurious (very, very high) interest profits to the rich at the expense of the schools. The cuts of more than one thousand teachers and the reduction in programs for the city's 460,000 school children are the other side of the same coin. Taxes that should be going to improve education in Chicago are now going to support the super-rich.□

Uptown Families Refuse To Move

Banks Development Faces Court Test

"Their only commitment to this community is to see that we are all out of here by the time they have the rehabilitation completed. This neighborhood was good enough for poor people to live here under slumlords all these years. Now they want to take all the lakefront land and lure the rich to live here. But first they've got to get rid of us. It won't be as easy as they think." For Ted Ivory, and dozens of other residents of the area at Sunnyside, Agatite, Windsor and Hazel, on the east end of Uptown, the lines have been drawn and the battle to save their homes is on.

The fight began near the end of July when residents of the area learned that Uptown Federal Savings and Loan had taken control of 18 buildings, some 370 apartments, in the six-block area. Through the real estate section of a major daily newspaper, the bank announced the "rebirth" of a lakefront community with rents starting at $400 and $600 a month and condominiums selling for $60,000.

Spokesmen for Uptown Federal were called to a community hearing in late July. While they were forced to admit that they had held the buildings for over a year, during which time they were planning the redevelopment, bank officials confessed that they would not or could not answer questions about specifics and timetables for the property. But the spokesmen did promise to begin repairs in the occupied units immediately; they agreed to accept a list of needed repairs from community residents and to furnish the group a timetable for those repairs.

"Uptown Federal placed only 11% of its loans in Uptown...amounting to $90 per resident."

Finally, they agreed that no families would be displaced.

The tenants' distrust for Uptown Federal was not without reason. A report in mid-July by the Housing Resources Center of Uptown Hull House stated, "Uptown Federal has $429 million in assets, but in 1979 placed only 11 percent of its loans in Uptown south of Bryn Mawr ...amounting to $90 per resident. By contrast Uptown Federal made 17 percent of its loans, in 1979, to a single census tract south of Uptown ...equal to $2,180 per resident."

With a track record of denying money to the Uptown community for needed housing repairs and rehabilitation, it was clear to all by August that the bank planned to redevelop, speculate and displace hundreds of families.

By the beginning of August, Uptown Federal announced that two of the occupied buildings would be closed, not repaired. The tenants group, by this time calling itself WASH (Windsor, Agatite, Sunnyside, Hazel tenants) responded in writing, demanding that no buildings be closed; that any jobs created during the maintenance program be given to people from the community; that immediate repairs be done to protect the safety of the tenants; that no retaliation be taken against tenants for withholding rents; and that upon completion of repairs, all present tenants be given a one year

"First they've got to get rid of us. It won't be as easy as they think." WASH tenants are refusing to be moved from their homes.

lease.

The bank did not respond to the tenants' letter for ten days. When it came, the response was as brutal as the conditions in the half-abandoned buildings Uptown Federal had been collecting rent on for the last year. Tenants in three buildings received notices to move by September 30. Before the letter arrived, workmen for the bank went through the buildings tearing doors and door frames off the vacant apartments. Now it was clear. There would be no repairs while the present tenants occupied the buildings.

Although in need of repairs, the Parkview apartments are as good as, or better than, most apartments in Uptown.

Some tenants find the relocation plans unacceptable—

Bank spokesmen maintained that the buildings were in court and the judge ordered the buildings closed. But James Chapman, attorney for the tenants and general counsel for the Heart of Uptown Coalition, offerd a different explanation.

"When they bought these buildings almost a year ago, they were in building court. The changes or violations against them are no worse than a lot of other buildings all over the city. They made no attempt to fight the building case in court. The record shows they were given as much opportunity as they wanted to fix these places up. And so when they say the court ordered these buildings closed, that's bullshit. They agreed to close the buildings. It's right in the record that there was no force by the city. There was not even a date set by the court as to when the buildings should be vacated."

Uptown Federal has promised to relocate the tenants that will be forced to move. But some tenants find the relocation plans unacceptable. One woman explained, "This man from Rescorp (Uptown Federal's managing agent) showed us four or five two-bedroom apartments. Some had the kitchen on what used to be a backporch. One apartment had some fungus growing on the ceiling. None had a dining room. The worst thing, besides the conditions, was that really all they have in large supply is studios and tiny one-bedroom apartments."

Mary Hall, a member of the Board of Directors of the Heart of Uptown Coalition and acting Chairperson for WASH, explained the tenants' anger over the relocation plans: "I don't see how they could have these apartments fixed up for people to move into by September 30. They have promised people apartments the same size as they live in, or larger, in better condition, and at the same rent. They don't have any buildings to meet that. If they are serious about fixing up those apartments, knocking out walls to connect studios, as they have promised, then I don't see why they can't fix up the hallways and apartments where people are now. The apartments in the buildings they want to close are as good or better than many in Uptown that people are living in."

Workmen for the bank went through the buildings tearing doors and door frames off the vacant apartments.

Two days after the relocation tour, the tenants met and decided to go to court against Uptown Federal and Rescorp.

As the organization grows and each court appearance becomes a tense confrontation between tenants and the bank, there is no sign that the families will move peacefully. Sammy Miller, active in the struggle, speaks for many, "I don't care if we are up against the fourth largest savings and loan association in the city of Chicago, the people of this community will not be displaced without a fight."□

HEIWA TERRACE

"No Senior Citizen Housing In Chicago Is Like This Place"

Newly completed Heiwa Terrace, located at 920 W. Lawrence Ave., is much different from other low cost housing for senior citizens. "If anyone doesn't like it here there is something wrong with them," said tenant Martha Soucy. "I don't see how anyone can live in here and not like it!! When I found out they were taking applications I put mine in. It was the first part of June when I found out I was accepted and I was so happy. I moved right in and it is just wonderful."

The Japanese American Service Committee did an in-depth survey in 1973 to determine the need for housing for the elderly. The Service Committee took the results to the Federal Government (HUD) and persuaded them to provide funds for the construction of the project. The Japanese American Service Committee Housing Corporation decided to raise an additional sum for the extras, including carpeting, drapes, and furnishings. In May of 1980 the project was completed.

Berry Suzukida was anxiously waiting for his application to be accepted. When he was notified he wasted no time. "I was living in a small apartment. This is a nice change. I have ample room and it's built compact so you have enough storage space for everything. There are no cockroaches so far and it's so new and clean. In the lobby of the building we have a library and a place to socialize. There is a beautiful dining room here which will open soon. They will serve hot lunches daily. Also we have laundry facilities, an activities room and a room for crafts. Also living accommodations for handicapped people in wheel chairs have been built. Heiwa Terrace is really wonderful and ideal for senior citizens."

Lee Waller, a resident who has been on the waiting list with the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) since 1978, heard about Heiwa Terrace, put in his application and was accepted in three months time. Lee had this to say, "Now the building itself, I was shocked. It's unlike CHA. You see it when you go in there. With standard rents today, an apartment like I got would rent for $399 per month on an open market. I pay $90 and the government pays the rest. Now for that $90 I have complete airconditioning and I control my own heat. There is an all-electric kitchen and I don't have to pay any part of the electric bill. This is not like Chicago Housing Authority buildings, where senior citizens have to pay their electric bills. No senior citizen housing in Chicago is like this place. It is beautiful and it's for people who want something nice and decent."

Heiwa Terrace is the first project of its kind that the Japanese American Service Committee has taken on. But because the organization was seriously concerned that seniors had a decent, safe and affordable place to live, they found a way to make it work. This is something that the CHA, an agency that was set up to provide housing, has not been able to do. □

Heiwa Terrace (Above) gives seniors a secure, comfortable and affordable place to live. (Right) Facilities are provided where residents can socialize.

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Chicago's Masterplan In Living Color

By Helen Shiller

On August 27, 1980, the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry sponsored a tour, "Focusing on the Loop, Near Westside and Near Southside areas." On the flyer advertising the tour, the organizations identified as sponsoring the day-long event were: the Chicago Central Area Committee; the Department of Planning, City of Chicago; the Chicago Economic Development Commission; the Greater North Michigan Avenue Association; the Michigan Boulevard Association; the Wabash Avenue Association; the West Central Association; the Southside Planning Board; Neighborhood Redevelopment Assistance, Inc.; Peoples Gas Light and Coke Co.; and Commonwealth Edison Company.

Since 1973, when the Chicago 21 Plan first came out, I have been talking about how Chicago has a masterplan. A masterplan to ignore the majority of people who live in Chicago's inner city and ultimately to move us out altogether. Many people working in communities all over Chicago agreed and for a while we had a Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan.

However, others said we were paranoid, even crazy.

When we said Dearborn Park and River City and the State Street Mall were projects for our own displacement, they said we had to be nuts. How could that be? No one was living on the railroad tracks to be occupied by Dearborn Park and River City.

When we said federal money should not be used to subsidize Dearborn Park because it was an upper income development, they said we were dreaming. That no federal or public money would be spent there.

After Dearborn Park received millions in federal Urban Development Action Grants and even more public funds through the fiasco with the public school facility for Dearborn Park, we said River City should not receive federal money.

Again we were told, "Don't be silly, you don't know what you're talking about, Dearborn Park is not River City." So River City was given the go-ahead and already — not even six months later — their first application for UDAG funds has been approved.

...Chicago has a masterplan. A masterplan to ignore the majority of people who live in the inner-city and ultimately to move us out altogether.

So, on August 27, I took the tour.

We began at 8 a.m. with a briefing and a continental breakfast. Who else was here? Who else would be going on such a tour?

I didn't recognize many names on the name tags people wore, but their affiliations painted a picture of their own: IBM, Illinois Bell, Commonwealth Edison, a host of banks, realty companies and real estate consultants, and finally a woman from the historical society and a few architecture enthusiasts.

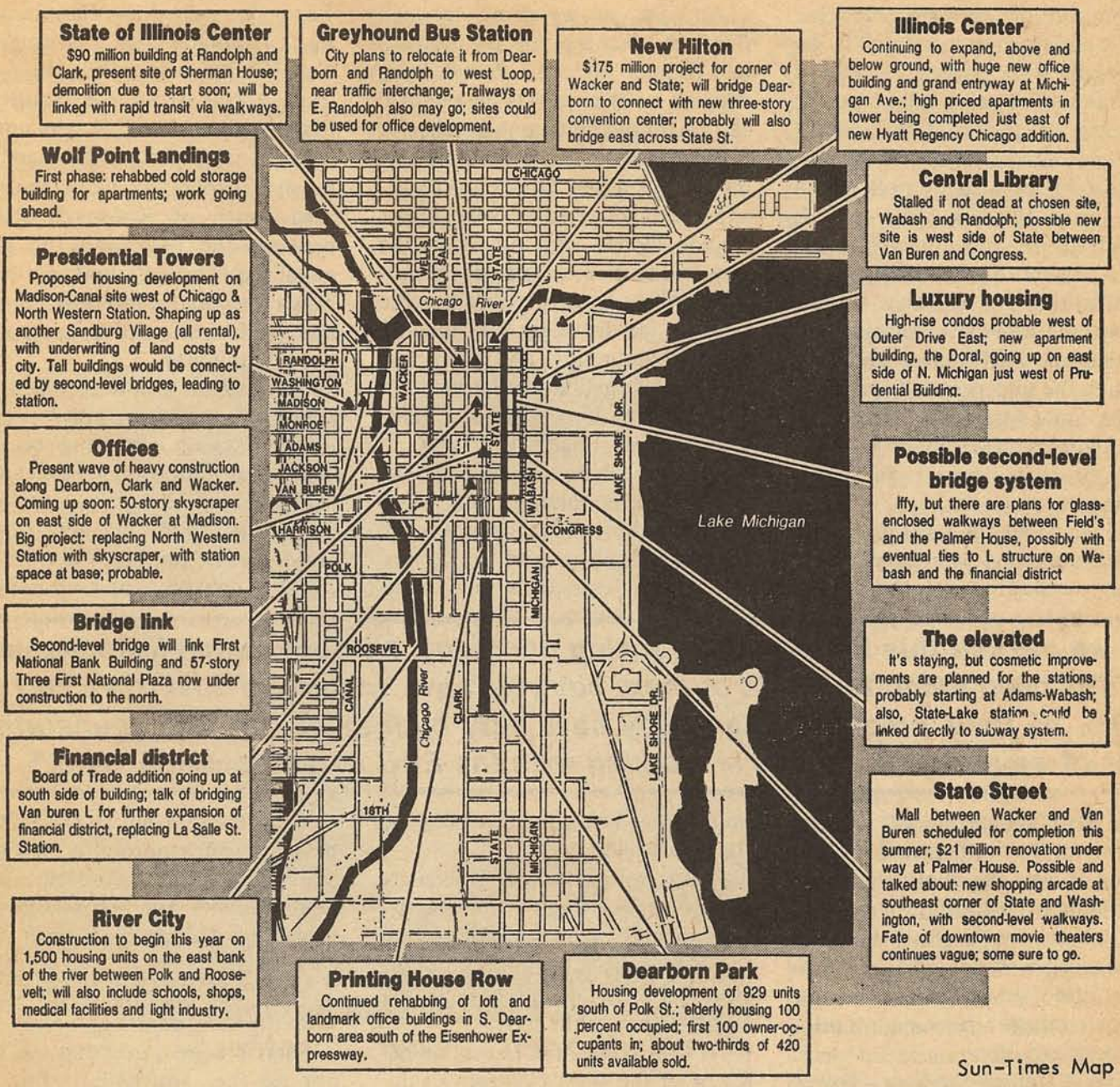
Everyone was very polite and as the briefing ended we walked to the two buses that were to take us on a tour of the awakening Chicago.

While it would take more space than is available to describe the entire tour, there are some highlights which will paint the picture of the new Chicago, a Chicago of corporate headquarters surrounded by highclass housing, cultural activities, shopping, entertainment and safe streets catered to the needs of the world elite who travel and do business among the international set.

As we drove north on Lake Shore Drive from Monroe to Wacker, Jack Cornelius, the Executive Director of the Central Area Planning Committee explained to us how the Central Business District (generally the Loop) is five percent of the total city area, provides 40 percent of all jobs in Chicago and accounts for one third of all real estate revenues.

When we got to Wacker Drive and turned off Lake Shore Drive, we began to enter the Brave New World. To our left was the Illinois

HEADQUARTERS CITY


State of Illinois Center
$90 million building at Randolph and Clark, present site of Sherman House; demolition due to start soon; will be linked with rapid transit via walkways.
Greyhound Bus Station
City plans to relocate it from Dearborn and Randolph to west Loop, near traffic interchange; Trailways on E. Randolph also may go; sites could be used for office development.
New Hilton
$175 million project for corner of Wacker and State; will bridge Dearborn to connect with new three-story convention center; probably will also bridge east across State St.
Illinois Center
Continuing to expand, above and below ground, with huge new office building and grand entryway at Michigan Ave.; high priced apartments in tower being completed just east of new Hyatt Regency Chicago addition.
Wolf Point Landings
First phase: rehabbed cold storage building for apartments; work going ahead.
Central Library
Stalled if not dead at chosen site, Wabash and Randolph; possible new site is west side of State between Van Buren and Congress.
Presidential Towers
Proposed housing development on Madison-Canal site west of Chicago & North Western Station. Shaping up as another Sandburg Village (all rental), with underwriting of land costs by city. Tall buildings would be connected by second-level bridges, leading to station.
Luxury housing
High-rise condos probable west of Outer Drive East; new apartment building, the Doral, going up on east side of N. Michigan just west of Prudential Building.
Offices
Present wave of heavy construction along Dearborn, Clark and Wacker. Coming up soon: 50-story skyscraper on east side of Wacker at Madison. Big project: replacing North Western Station with skyscraper, with station space at base; probable.
Possible second-level bridge system
Iffy, but there are plans for glass-enclosed walkways between Field's and the Palmer House, possibly with eventual ties to L structure on Wabash and the financial district
Bridge link
Second-level bridge will link First National Bank Building and 57-story Three First National Plaza now under construction to the north.
The elevated
It's staying, but cosmetic improvements are planned for the stations, probably starting at Adams-Wabash; also, State-Lake station could be linked directly to subway system.
Financial district
Board of Trade addition going up at south side of building; talk of bridging Van buren L for further expansion of financial district, replacing La Salle St. Station.
State Street
Mall between Wacker and Van Buren scheduled for completion this summer; $21 million renovation under way at Palmer House. Possible and talked about: new shopping arcade at southeast corner of State and Washington, with second-level walkways. Fate of downtown movie theaters continues vague; some sure to go.
River City
Construction to begin this year on 1,500 housing units on the east bank of the river between Polk and Roosevelt; will also include schools, shops, medical facilities and light industry.
Printing House Row
Continued rehabbing of loft and landmark office buildings in S. Dearborn area south of the Eisenhower Expressway.
Dearborn Park
Housing development of 929 units south of Polk St.; elderly housing 100 percent occupied; first 100 owner-occupants in; about two-thirds of 420 units available sold.
CHICAGO
Chicago River
Lake Michigan
WELLS
LA SALLE
STATE
WACKER
DR.
LAKE SHORE
WABASH
MICHIGAN
CANAL
CLARK
RANDOLPH
WASHINGTON
MADISON
MONROE
ADAMS
JACKSON
VAN BUREN
HARRISON
POLK
ROOSEVELT
CONGRESS
16TH

Sun-Times Map

Center. While it's currently under construction, several of the buildings have been completed.

Pointing out the three level traffic lanes being built below the massive project we got a whiff of a very organized plan. The three level traffic system would allow for express traffic, local traffic and delivery traffic. The difference between local and delivery traffic struck me as odd but I continued to listen, suppressing my aroused curiosity.

Jack Cornelius was explaining that the developers concept is "bringing the people downtown with mixed usage, office apartments, hotel and office space." Between two of the completed buildings he pointed out a pedestrian walkway many feet off the ground, apparently connecting the two buildings. It was here that I felt I was entering a cross between the twilight zone, the Brave New World and my own nightmare reality of Chicago's masterplan.

I could have sworn I heard him say that these climate controlled walkways would make convenient passageways, "A person could live, work, shop, go to the movies and never have to go outside."

As I heard a further explanation of how this was a step toward

solving conflicts between pedestrian traffic and transportation traffic on Chicago's busy streets, I had a daydream of a street full of people walking at the intersection of Wacker Drive and Michigan Avenue surrounded by police with bull horns blasting, "No one is permitted to walk on Chicago's streets. If you do not have proper identification for entrance to our pedestrian walkways, entrance to the delivery traffic lanes are open through the underground entrances of the State Street L. Please proceed there immediately or you will be subject to arrest for trespassing."

Driving down Wacker Drive we passed numerous river front parks, neatly tucked away; the North Loop development project with its promise of over a thousand jobs all paying at least the minimum wage; the planned Heliport just west of Wells Street on the north bank of the Chicago River; and development after development; a new sports complex, housing, condominiums, etc., etc.

After a stop at the Sears Tower our tour continued through Chicago's southwest loop and finally out west.

In 1976-77, 30 percent of the zoning changes in the city of Chicago were made in the southwest loop area of the city. There was a net loss of 16,500 jobs in the same area in the same year. Property that had been designated for manufacturing had their zoning changed to commercial and residential.

And yet, as we drove through this area, once a center for industry in Chicago, the only change from the past mentioned was the removal of flop houses and men's hotels.

Passing by Greek Town, we saw the site for a new Olympic Village, apparently planned to keep upper income Greeks and others in the area and as maintenance of the cultural, ethnic restaurants. It was the same as we drove by the "quaint" Italian community and their resturants, left behind in the wake of the sprawling University of Illinois campus and finally the same in Chinatown where the cultural heritage of the community was being emphasized by our guides while the removal of low and moderate income residents from that community was being justified as good for Chinatown.

But as we passed the University of Illinois, a string of low-rise developments closing the gap between the University of Illinois and the so-called medical center, I got my biggest shock of the day.

As Bob Wiggs, the Executive Director of the West Central Organization described the expanding and extensive resources of the medical center complex located west of Ashland Avenue and south of the Eisenhower Expressway, he mentioned Presbyterian St. Lukes Hospital, the University of Illinois Medical School and facilities and a number of other institutions. **But he never mentioned Cook County Hospital.**

Driving to the southside following a luncheon in China Town, we passed the Illinois Auto Parts Company. By this time Dr. Carl Gripp was conducting the tour. He is from the Southside Planning Board and we were now in his area of expertise. He had just finished explaining to us that the area south of Roosevelt Road, between the river and the lake, would be Chicago's In-Town-New-Town and that in the next 15 years there will be thirty thousand people living in this area.

He must have noticed a few eye brows raise as we passed this large auto wrecking company because out of nowhere he apologetically explained, "We've been trying to get rid of them" (meaning Illinois Auto Parts) "but you have to realize that they pay one hundred percent of their property taxes, they have very high sales and they generate alot of sales taxes. But we're working with the Economic Development Commission on a relocation plan."

As we passed this large auto wrecking company, he apologetically explained, "We've been trying to get rid of them but you have to realize that they pay 100% of their property taxes, they have very high sales and they generate alot of sales taxes. But we're working with the EDC on a relocation plan."

Now, I thought, I finally know what the EDC does.

There is a great deal that was said about the southside, but in summary, every inch of land is planned for development from Roosevelt Road to the Illinois Institute of Technology and Michael Reese Hospital and from the river to the lake.

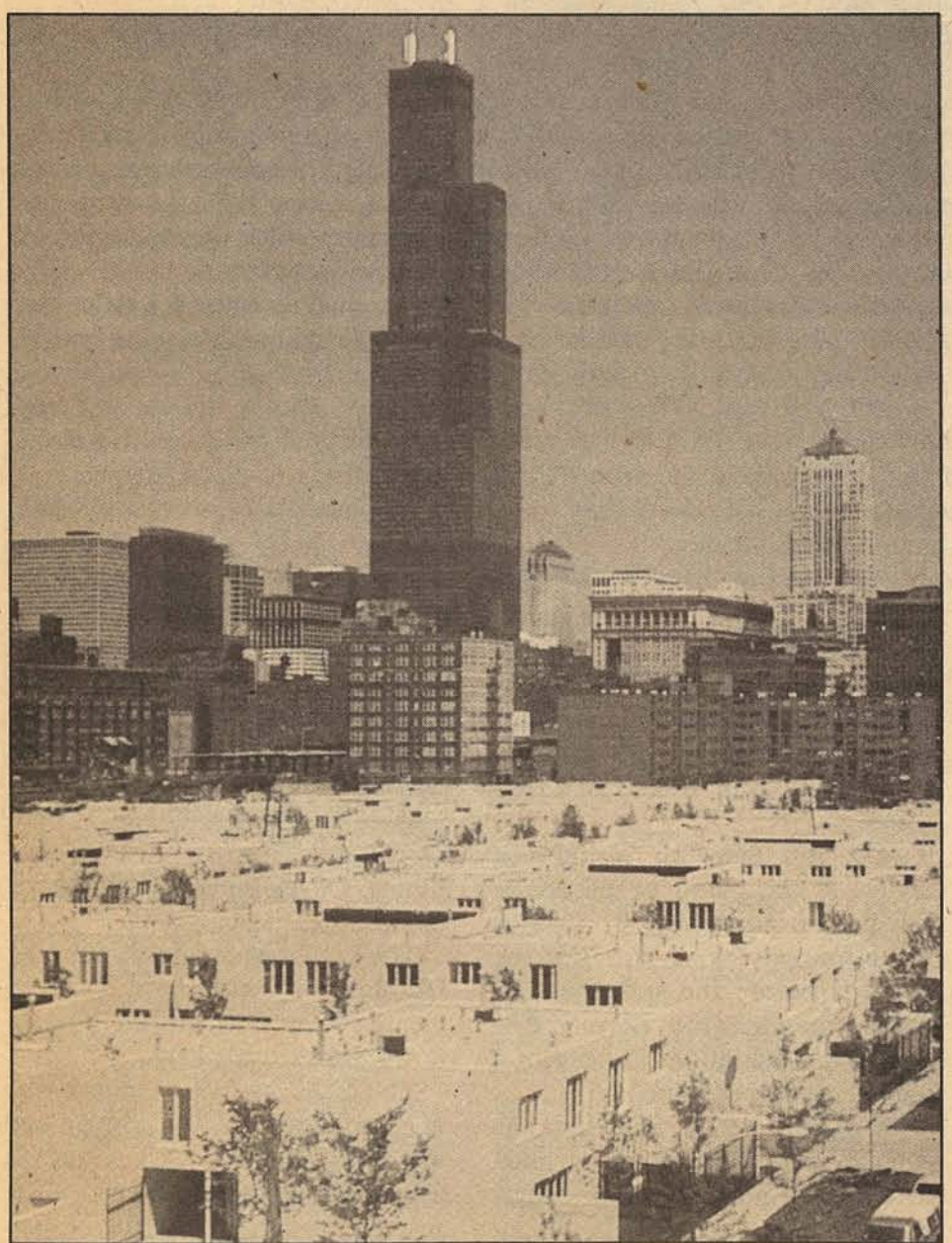
Several years ago someone in the city goofed and built two highrise housing projects which seemed to cause some consternation among our masterplanner friends. But I'm sure they will come up with something.

Our tour ended at Dearborn Park. As the junior executives were given a sales pitch to buy in to Dearborn Park, the pioneering development that people scoffed at but which proved it could be done, I became very uncomfortable.

The sales pitch continued. "We had a lot of barriers to overcome. Many people were skeptical that this would work, others were opposed to it, but we overcame those obstacles, and now we have the foothold into the New-Town-In-Town."

So, the Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan had in fact had an impact. And, so, equally as quickly it had none as the work that many of us had done to bring attention to Dearborn Park and all the rest had trickled to a halt.

My mind went back over what I had seen that day. I thought of Wisconsin Steel and realized that the over 3500 jobs lost there this year were part of a trade-off. New jobs would be coming into Chicago at the Hilton Hotels and as secretaries in the quickly going up large office buildings that intended to house the growing move to make Chicago the center for corporate headquarters, world-wide. It was a trade-off for jobs that are generally low paying and without union representation at the expense of traditionally higher paying jobs with union representation. Those other jobs in corporate headquarters must be for those 30,000 people planning to move close to the Loop in the next 15 years.



Dearborn Park: The New-Town-In-Town. One step along the way of making Chicago a headquarters for international corporations.

The average income of the residents of Dearborn Park is $45-$55,000 a year. Their average age is 40 to 50. They are 65 percent White and 70 percent of them work downtown.

Last year, during the school financial crisis, the original plans to use Dearborn Station as the location for Dearborn Park's own exclusive public school were scrapped. Instead the Chicago Board of Education through the Public Building Commission bought five town houses for approximately $350,000 each (according to the school board.) These buildings were rehabbed to function as classrooms. However, after the first 300 families moved into Dearborn Park, only 18 children were among them.

As we entered the buses to leave Dearborn Park and return to the Loop, Jack Cornelius explained that the children living in Dearborn Park would be attending Ogden School on the near north side. The classrooms at Dearborn Park, for which the school board continues to pay rent, are apparently closed and unused. □

Schwinn Workers Fight For Union Contract

Is City's "Jobs" Commission Involved In Union Busting?

"There was a group in the Independent Union Committee. There were maybe five guys who had the drive and the intelligence. They considered us the militants, the troublemakers. But I'm proud that I was a militant and a troublemaker because we proved them wrong. We proved that they were lying and cheating and conniving. They were using every trick in the book to maipulate the people. If you compare the progress of the company, the growth of the company since I've been there with my growth as an employee, it's out of sight. When I came to work at Schwinn Bicycle Co. they only had one manufacturing plant, plant one. Now they've got manufacturing plant two, plant three and plant four. But besides all these other plants they have grown where they have warehouses in Atlanta, Ga, warehouses in Colorodo, California, one in the east, one in Elk Grove Village, two other on the westside, one on the southside, in LaGrange. They're shipping all over the place — to every state. They manuever their stock or what they produce, they move it around or in a sense where they have subsidiaries. And that's how they get around their taxes. That's how when we negotiated a contract with them they would tell us 'we lost money, we didn't make that much money.'"

Bob Medina, active in Independent Union and organizer of UAW drive

FACTS ABOUT SCHWINN

The Schwinn Bicycle Co. has been manufacturing bicycles on Chicago's northwest side for 85 years. Since 1908 the company has been solely in the hands of the Schwinn family.

Annual revenues are estimated at $175 million. Schwinn claims 10 percent of the domestic bicycle market, which last year totaled 10.8 million units (bikes) including 1.8 million imports.

Industry sales last year jumped 12 percent to 14 percent while Schwinn says its sales leaped 25 percent to 30 percent.

According to Crane's Business Magazine, "The industry and Schwinn are optimistic about 1980 and project sales will equal last year."

In September, 1979, employees at the Schwinn Bicycle Co. began to pass out UAW cards for their fellow workers to sign. The move had been initiated by leadership in the duly elected Independent Union Committee that had always been Schwinn workers' representatives.

By the time management became aware of the union drive, 1200 employees had already signed the UAW union cards necessary to petition for an election. Schwinn sent out a letter encouraging their employees not to sign any cards, that the Independent Union had turned its back on them.

On March 28, 1980, the election was held. The UAW received the majority of the votes cast. But it was not until August 24, following numerous appeals and complaints in procedure from the company that the election was finally certified.

And still Schwinn would not recognize the union or negotiate. Finally, on September 4, 1980, a strike vote was taken. With just one day left before the strike was to begin, the Schwinn Bicycle Co. agreed to negotiations in front of a federal mediating board.

Since late 1977, Schwinn has encouraged rumors that it intended to move its manufacturing operations from Chicago to Tulsa, Oklahoma. This information finally came to the attention of the Economic Development Commission (EDC).

The EDC was created by the City Council in December, 1975 to create jobs in Chicago and to retain (keep) jobs already here.

The EDC has 19 members who are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. There are approximately six others who are members by virtue of their public positions; for example, the Director of the Mayor's Office of

Employment and Training, the Commissioner of the Department of Planning, the City Budget Director, etc.

Since the EDC was first formed, its membership has been almost exclusively captains of finance and industry in Chicago. Out of 19 appointed positions, in the last four years only one person on the Commission has been Black, none have been Latino and there have been no women and labor's representation has always been limited to Tom Nayder of the Chicago Building Trades and Bill Lee of the Chicago Federation of Labor. There has never been representation from community organizations.

Between August 1977 and January 1980, representatives from the EDC had several conversations with the Schwinns as reported in the EDC's minutes. By January 1980, the EDC had apparently come to its own conclusion regarding the "Schwinn project." The number one problem and "hurdle" that Schwinn had to over come, they said, was the attempt by an "outside" union to replace Schwinn's independent union.

The minutes went on to say that "the Commission has continued to be of assistance to Schwinn. Both the EDC and the Mayor's Office of Manpower have aided in the screening of applicants for job openings. Schwinn has hired in excess of 600 employees over several months in an attempt to produce enough bicycles to meet the demand."

But according to Schwinn employees, at least 600 people were **laid-off** from Schwinn between September 1979 and March 1980, when the UAW election took place.

The way in which the EDC was being of assistance to Schwinn was by preparing a package for on the job training slots. Through the federal CETA program administered through the Chicago Alliance of Business, people hired and trained by Schwinn would have half of their salaries paid for with federal money.

Schwinn workers: "We are going to negotiate responsibly. We're not here to break the company, because if we break the company, we'll be out of a job."

What, if anything, else the EDC did to assist the Schwinn Bicycle Co. in their anti-union drive cannot be documented, but their thinly veiled attempt to get Schwinn federal resources at the expense of current employees cannot be denied.

According to Carie Williams, formerly a leader in the Independent Union and one of the original organizers for the UAW, employees laid-off before the March election were not called back until after the strike vote was taken on September 14, 1980: "To show you how unfair they are, they started calling the people back so they wouldn't have to pay the unemployment benefits and so the union would have to pay them strike benefits."

On September 26, KEEP STRONG interviewed six Schwinn workers who had been involved in the UAW organizing drive: Henry Mahone, Thomas Leetch, Barbara Karijolic, Bob Medina, Carie Williams and Henry Shaver. Five of them had been active in the leadership of the old Independent Union. These employees worked at Schwinn an average of 16 years. Excerpts from that interview follow.

HENRY SHAVER: All throughout the community they were hearing about what was going on at Schwinn. See, I live down the block and all the businessmen in the neighborhood were saying, "you guys are going to get a union and the neighborhood is going to go to hell."

Well really, if you look at the whole picture, the union is going to help the neighborhood because it's going to be putting money in the people's pocket who live here and

they're going to spend it here.

BOB MEDINA: The mix in the factories is about one third Black, one third Latino and one third Caucasian. And originally, there was always that division. They always tried to keep the people divided and I think that was one reason why they started hiring non-English speaking people. Not only the Latins but also Orientals and Europeans. That was one way of keeping the troops divided and so forth.

But, as we grew we started to seek out help and get information, and we realized how we had been taken for a ride.

Last year we had a fellow in the tool room. He had been with the company for 40 years and he retired. He had $12,000 in his profit sharing after 40 years. That scares me. I've got 17 years of service with the company. What am I going to do when I retire? We've got no retirement plan. How long will $12,000 last him after retirement?

CARIE WILLIAMS: I had two guys retire out of my department with some 50 years. They only got $1000 bonus with whatever they had in the profit sharing. We started thinking. If they had done what we had the nerve to do when they were our age then they wouldn't be in the position that they are in now.

BOB MEDINA: We are going to negotiate responsibly. We're not here to break the company, because if we break the company, we'll be out of a job. We're responsible employees. It's obvious because we took the initiative. It's going to be to everybody's advantage. We're going to improve the company because we're going to be more knowledgeable.

BARBARA KARIJOLIC: You get better results. The profit sharing is out anyhow. But we want a pension plan. That is a must because we don't have any pension plan at all.

BOB MEDINA: Another thing I want to mention without offending the White workers that we have — we have a good relationship there. The workers get along very well and that's one reason why we were successful.

But in the promotional systen that they have, if you check it out right now, I think there's only one woman that is a floor lady — that's comparable to foreman. In management, that's that only woman we have. Latinos, I think there might be one or two supervisors. They're really token. Blacks, I think there's only one foreman and one or two supervisors. It's pure tokensism.

Schwinn's planned move to Tulsa: "We can't stop them from moving, but at least we can have something in the contract that says if they move, they're going to pay for it."

If we really wanted to get nasty we could have filed charges against them long ago. I guess maybe our own self pride — I want to earn it. I don't want it from you because you feel sorry for me because I'm a minority. If a man offers me a job as foreman or in management of any kind, it's because I have the intelligence and I have the drive, not because I file charges against the company.

HENRY SHAVERS: We've got one woman in our department, she wanted a ten cent raise by getting a plant change in her classification. That caused her to have to do different jobs than what all the women were doing. So the boss, because he didn't like the idea, gave her all the worse jobs in the place that the men didn't want to do, to get even with her for what was right he goes and gives her all the sloppy jobs because it was like she had done something personal to him. So this is the kind of stuff that goes on over there.

KEEP STRONG: Did they mention the Tulsa move during the election?

CARIE WILLIAMS: That's another thing that worked on us. That's another thing that persuaded us to go out and seek help. We had in our Independent Union contract something called severence pay that wasn't severence pay.

They went so far as to draw up a plan of an entire plant in Tulsa and brought it up into the conference room where we have our in plant committee meetingsand they let us see the whole layout — psychologically working on our minds. And I said, "Hey, you know, it's time for us to do something now. Why should we let them move away. If they're going to move we can't stop them from moving. The union can't stop them from moving if they're going to move, but at least we can have something in the contract that says if they move, they're going to pay for it." That's how we thought.

HENRY SHAVERS: Everytime we sat down to negotiate that was one of the rumors that would go out through the plant. When I came in here in 1969, the guys told me, the old timers who had been here 30 to 40 years, said, "Well, Schwinn's been moving ever since I been here. Every year, time we sit down at the negotiating table, they're moving here or they're moving there."□

Communities Mobilize Against Tax Increases

The announcement of increased property taxes for home owners in Dallas, Texas has set off a quiet tax revolt in this major southwestern city.

The following report is condensed from articles covering the increases and the revolt, written by John Fullinwider, editor of the People's Voice, *a monthly newspaper published by the Bois D'arc Patriots.*

DALLAS—Tens of thousands of small homeowners in this Texas city are threatened with losing their homes or suffering tremendous property tax increases of up to 200 percent, according to reports in the *People's Voice*, a Dallas newspaper.

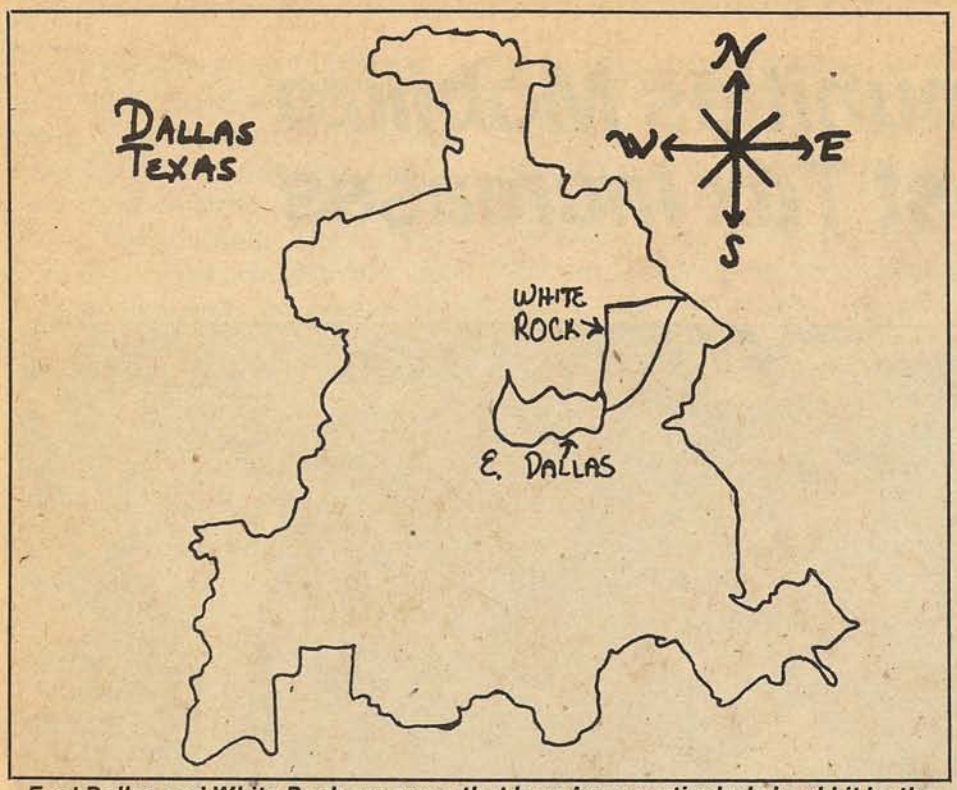
"East Dallas is perhaps the hardest hit community in the city. The area contains the highest proportion of senior citizen households (30 percent) in Dallas, and the largest number of female-headed households—both of which are generally lower income groups less able to absorb a property tax increase. Much of the rental housing in East Dallas is duplex and single family stock. They are assessed as residential, while large apartment buildings considered "commercial property" will continue to receive "massive tax breaks."

"East Dallas is perhaps the hardest hit community in the city."

This East Dallas house sold for $9,750 in 1978. The city claims its '78 valuation is $37,373.

The stage for the huge tax jump was set by the state of Texas, in 1978, when the legislature passed a set of so-called "Tax Relief Amendments."

"Governor Dolph Briscoe and House Speaker Bill Clayton decided to cash in on the popularity of California's Proposition 13 (across the board reduction in property taxes) and at the same time help their friends: corporate farmers, timber companies, land developers, speculators, and owners of corporate stock." The amendments reduced taxes on property these groups hold and removes taxes on paper assets (stocks, bonds, ect.) completely. While the amendments did relieve the tax burden on family farmers, they also allowed many categories of land to be classified as agricultural. Speculators holding land around the Dallas/Fort Worth airport can now get agricultural tax breaks. Dallas Mayor Robert Folsom, much of whose Renner pro-



East Dallas and White Rock are areas that have been particularly hard-hit by the tax increase.

"Speculators holding land around the (Dallas/Fort Worth)...airport can now get...agricultural tax breaks."

perty was zoned agricultural at the time, and is now zoned multi-family, received thousands of dollars in tax breaks."

While conditions for a tax boost were ripened in Austin, the state capitol, it was the city's "Tax Equalization Program" that actually brought the burden of new tax increases to Dallas' poor and working class communities.

The 1978 state amendments removed the "assessment ratio" (by which property was assessed for tax purposes at a fraction of its market value). But the Dallas City Council took the amendments one step further with the Tax Equalization Program, an eight year effort to reappraise every piece of property in Dallas to reflect full market value as of December, 1978.

"Results of this program have been known for at least a year, but city officials have kept them under wraps — even to the point of hiding the full impact from the new city council members until only recently.

"The end of the assessment ratio and the updated valuations have combined to produce the massive tax hikes expected by homeowners. Although city council members express regret that the effects could not be phased in over a number of years, the fact is the state mandate to end assessment ratios (that is to tax all property at 100 percent of market value) does not take effect until January, 1981. Instead of increasing taxes now, the city council could spread the increased tax burden over the years and grant all homeowners a 25 percent exemption.

"The City Council has projected a tax rate cut of roughly 50 percent to offset the new official property valuations. But the city's valuations of business inventory will remain much the same as last year or increase less than the value of homes. Any cut in the tax rate will mean an actual tax cut for business.

"Over three hundred residents from five East Dallas neighborhoods gathered at Mt. Auburn Elementary School on May 29 to launch a grassroots organizing campaign against the Tax Equalization Program. East Dallas is the site of the city's first major inner city redevelopment efforts, the Fox and Jacobs Project near Exall Park. The historic designation of

"Any cut in the tax-rate will mean an actual tax cut for business."

Munger Place, the general hype about "Olde East Dallas" and the real estate speculation that has resulted from all these factors have led to often artificial increases in property values. This of course profits those involved in selling homes and lots in East Dallas. Long established community residents who do not want to sell, who simply want to continue living here, suffer the most.

"A North Dallas meeting drew nearly 1,000 taxpayers on Wednesday, May 28. Another meeting at Alex Snager Elementary School on May 29, drew 275 people from the Casa View and White Rock areas of East Dallas."

By the end of June several groups had combined to form the Dallas

The Dallas Taxpayer's League is a combination of several groups that have joined together to fight the drastic property tax increase.

Taxpayers League. The Taxpayers League moved to halt the implementation of the new tax system by blocking in court the certification of the tax rolls.

In early June the DTL (Dallas Taxpayers League) filed a class-action suit against the city to block the increased taxes. As part of the suit the taxpayers sought an emergency injunction to stop implementation of the tax roll until a full trial could be conducted to test its legality.

Since then the judge, who was hearing the case, granted the injunction, then disqualified himself. The judge who replaced him ruled against the class-action (the unnamed plaintiffs consist of every person affected) status of the suit.

"...The taxpayers sought an injunction to stop implementation of the tax roll until a full trial could test its legality."

The taxpayers appealed the ruling to the State Court of Appeals for the Dallas area. The Appeals Court disqualified itself on the grounds that all the judges were Dallas taxpayers. The case was sent to another Appeals Court in Eastland, Texas which hasn't made a ruling yet.

In August, the new judge disqualified himself, saying the case would take too long. The Taxpayers League added over 300 named plaintiffs to the suit in case the class-action status of the suit is denied. The next move is up to the courts, the Taxpayers League will see how yet another judge, to replace the current judge who disqualified himself, and the Court of Appeals, rules on their suit. In the meantime, the organization of militant taxpayers grows throughout Dallas. □

United Nations Condemns U.S. Role In Puerto Rico

UNITED NATIONS – The independence of Puerto Rico topped the agenda here in the middle of August, exactly one year after the world body last urged the United States to "transfer all powers to the people of this [Puerto Rico] territory...without any delay."

Another year has passed since the General Assembly last voted to condemn U.S. domination of Puerto Rico. Seven years have passed since the United Nations resolved to recognize, "the inalienable right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence" in 1973...Twenty years have passed since the 1960 declaration establishing, "independence as a prerequisite for...self-determination," and "placing countries [including the United States] which continue to dominate colonies in violation of the U.N. charter and international law."

Over the past year, the U.S. government has stood firm to maintain its political and economic control over the island of Puerto Rico. The military occupation of Vieques (a small fishing island municipality of Puerto Rico) has also continued. But recent events in the United States, Puerto Rico and around the world have forced the question of Puerto Rico to be discussed in more serious terms.

In May, 1980, hundreds of fishermen from Vieques and their supporters demonstrated against the U.S. Navy's military war game activities across the island. The Navy took control of three-fourths of the island (26,000 acres) in 1941. One of the fishermen explained the horror of the continuous war games. "We're caught right in the middle of two bases. One has 119 demolition depots and to get to the other base the Navy has to go right through our part of the island. It's as though we're living in a concentration camp...between February and March of 1978 they dropped 200,000 tons of bombs on this island."

When the five Puerto Rican nationalists were released after 26 years in prison, they were greeted with celebrations such as this one.

Twenty-one people were arrested during the Vieques demonstrations. One of them, Angel Cristobal, died "mysteriously" in his cell in a federal lock-up in Tallahassee, Florida five months later.

In September, 1979, Lolita Lebron, Oscar Collazo, Irving Flores and Rafael Cancel Miranda were released after 26 years in prison in the United States. They had just been jailed for opening fire in the halls of the U.S. Congress in order to "bring to the attention of the American people and the world that Puerto Rico is not free." Their release last fall is to many a sure sign of the growing strength and international support for the Puerto Rican independence movement that brought pressure on President Carter to release them.

By August, the U.N. felt compelled once again to condemn U.S. activity in Puerto Rico and restate the case for Puerto Rican independence. This time the language was stronger, more direct and more specific than any time since the subject first came to the General Assembly in 1954. The August 18 resolution of the Special Committee on Decolonization –

•Condemned the persecution to which persons struggling for self-determination and the independence of Puerto Rico are subjected.

•Declared as unacceptable any attempt to change the status of Puerto Rico (now a U.S. possession) without the consent and participation of the Puerto Rican people.

•Urged the government of the United States to use all necessary measures for the full transfer of powers to the people of Puerto Rico.

•Condemned the maneuvers of the U.S. Navy in Vieques and the repression against people struggling to end the military occupation of the island.

•Demanded that the government of the U.S. terminate all its military activities in Puerto Rico.

•Reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence. □

Zimbabwe Admitted To U.N.

Zimbabwe Leader Visits Harlem And Thanks The Gallant People

UNITED NATIONS—On April 18th of this year, the South African country of Zimbabwe celebrated its first day of independence after more than 100 years of rule by an all-White minority government. This past September 25th, Zimbabwe was formally admitted to the United Nations as the 153rd member.

"...«the regime» was bound to crumble under the ever-mounting thrust of the People's Liberation Forces."

Speaking before the General Assembly, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe was met with continued applause as he outlined the history of struggle in his country and asked for support in the rebuilding of Zimbabwe.

Describing the long and successful struggle for independence by the people of Zimbabwe, Mr. Mugabe told of the history and strategy of the People's Liberation Forces. "Between 1966 and 1977, while the colonial settler's strategy was to consolidate and try to secure international recognition for their illegal regime, the strategy we pursued as the Liberation Forces was to work by force of arms to overthrow that regime. That regime had created a military and para-military force to suppress the seven million Africans in Zimbabwe, but we remained firm and certain that it was bound to crumble under the ever-mounting thrust of the People's Liberation Forces.

"As we carried our military offensive from 1972 on, our approach was to begin by gaining control of the rural areas where the majority of African people live. In the process we dealt heavy blows to the pockets of military, economic and administrative strength of the enemy, while at the same time we politicized and moblized the masses into an impregnable force that was to prove the scourge of the enemy.

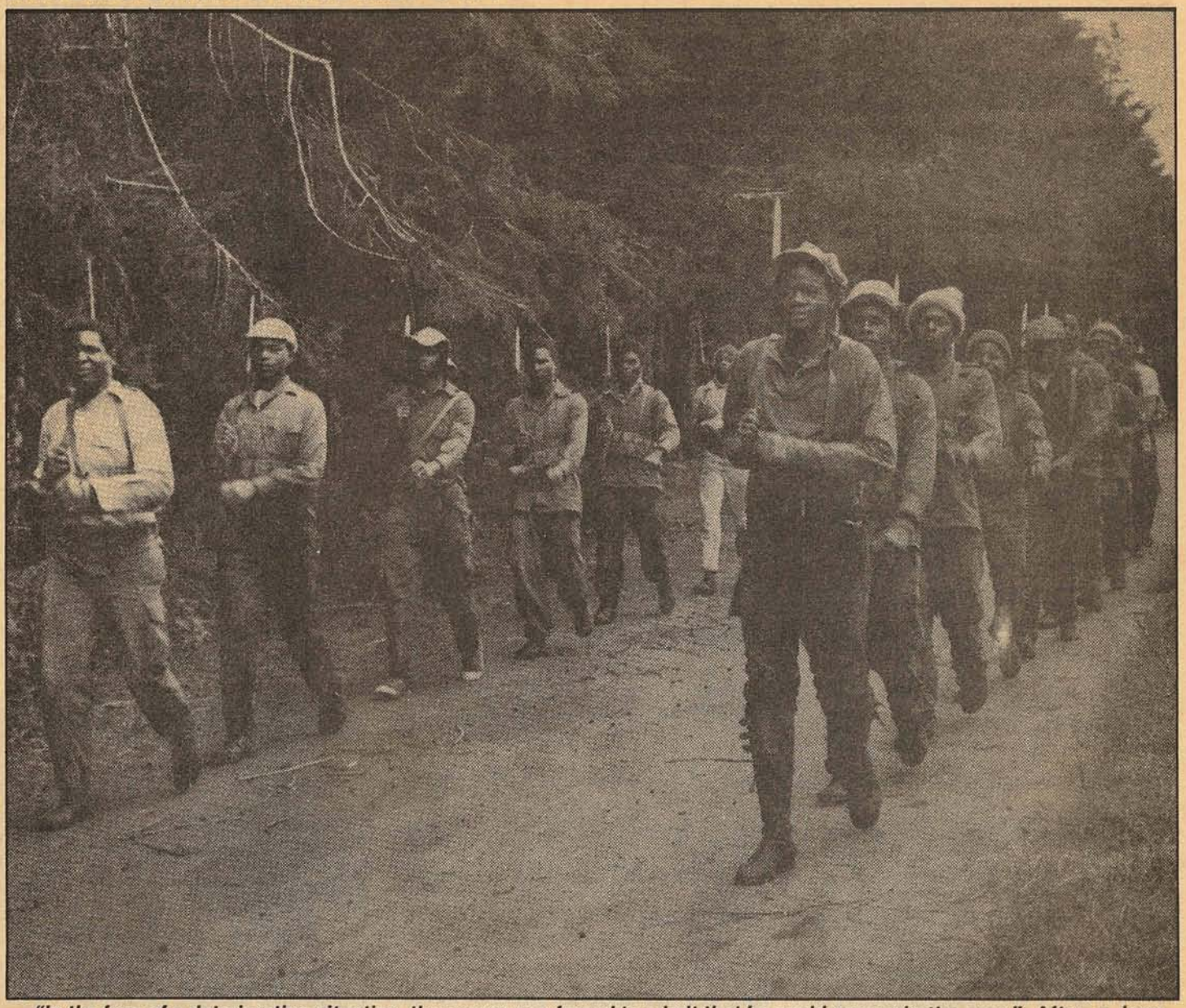
"In the face of a deteriorating situation, the enemy was forced to admit that he could never win the war. They began to adopt the tactics of harnessing retrogressive African leaders as prophets in order to preserve the facade of democracy. Some African puppets and stooges, dancing to the tune of their masters, provided a transparent window as they falsely proclaimed that majority rule had come to the country."

Describing the international reaction condemning this illegal attempt to maintain control of the country, the Prime Minister explained how the Liberation Forces had forced the all-White Ian Smith government to finally hold fair elections which resulted in victory for the people of Zimbabwe.

Mr. Mugabe stated that "massive financial help" was needed because

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

the minority regime had bled the country for so long and the war for independence has destroyed much of the country. "Our people look to the government for concrete benefits. Zimbabweans have civil liberties, the vote and democracy and now they need food, clothes, medicines, education, roads and water."



"In the face of a deteriorating situation, the enemy was forced to admit that he could never win the war." After a long and arduous struggle, Zimbabwe gained its independence on April 18th of this year.

At a luncheon in New York City, the Prime Minister made a strong case for increased financial aid from the United States. American aid, set for only $50 million over the next two years, is far below the support the government was giving the previous illegal government. Mr. Mugabe will also talk to President Carter in Washington, about bringing more pressure to bear on behalf of Black majority rule in Namibia, a South-West African country illegally governed by the all-White ruled country of South Africa. Mr. Mugabe said the South African government would yield to calls for the territory's independence if the United States and Britain withdrew their threat to veto any United Nations move to impose a trade embargo against South Africa.

In a related event, Mugabe spoke to cheering crowds in Harlem as he thanked the "gallant people" living there for their support of the people in Zimbabwe. "The African people, you and I," Mr. Mugabe said, "have refused to submit. As you know we won." Mr. Mugabe went to Harlem on the invitation of Congressman Charles Rangel and Ambassador Carl McCall. Lloyd Williams, Executive Officer of the Chamber of Commerce and Honorary Chairman of **Harlem Week** said, "In Mugabe we see the will and determination of a person and the representation of a people who must continually fight for their liberation."□

Black Troops In The Civil War

By Eugene Feldman

Without the help of vast numbers of Black men and women serving in the Civil War as scouts, spies, guides, soldiers and sailors, our nation might today still be split in two. (Even today our histories do not give the fullest credit to these men and women. Because Black history is not being taught in many of our schools, many of our students are of the opinion that no Black men or women served in America's battles for freedom.)

Blacks realized immediately that if the Confederacy, based on slavery, was defeated it meant that chattel slavery would be defeated with it. And that was why they left plantations by the thousands, to make their way to Northern encampments, wanting to help the Union win the war. J.A. Rogers, a noted Black historian, said that at the end of the Civil War there were 186,000 Blacks who had served in the armed forces. This does not count the "unofficials" who served as spies, as scouts and as guides. The Southern Blacks knew the Southern area and were able to inform Northern officers about Confederate strength, Confederate movements and even about Confederate plans. Black women who served as domestic servants were regarded as too stupid to understand military matters by their Southern

masters, but while they served their mint juleps, they paid attention to their conversation. Through the grapevine all the information quickly reached Northern lines.

Robert Smalls, a slave from Charleston, South Carolina, had training in the operation of river boats. Secretly he boarded his family on the Confederate ship, "The Planter", gave all of the appropriate signals and lights, but when he was out in the open sea he hoisted a white flag and headed for Union lines. He was awarded a bounty for his courageous efforts and went on to serve South Carolina as a United States Congressman. Harriet Tubman, who during slavery escaped her bondage and went back South 19 times to escort others out, also served as a spy. She knew the roads, the paths, the creeks and rivers, and she had the willingness and courage.

President Abraham Lincoln, though slow in allowing official involvement of Blacks, soon realized that without their help the country would be lost. He said this in his letters:

"To lose the help the Negro was giving, it would be as possible to save the Union as to do any other impossible thing.

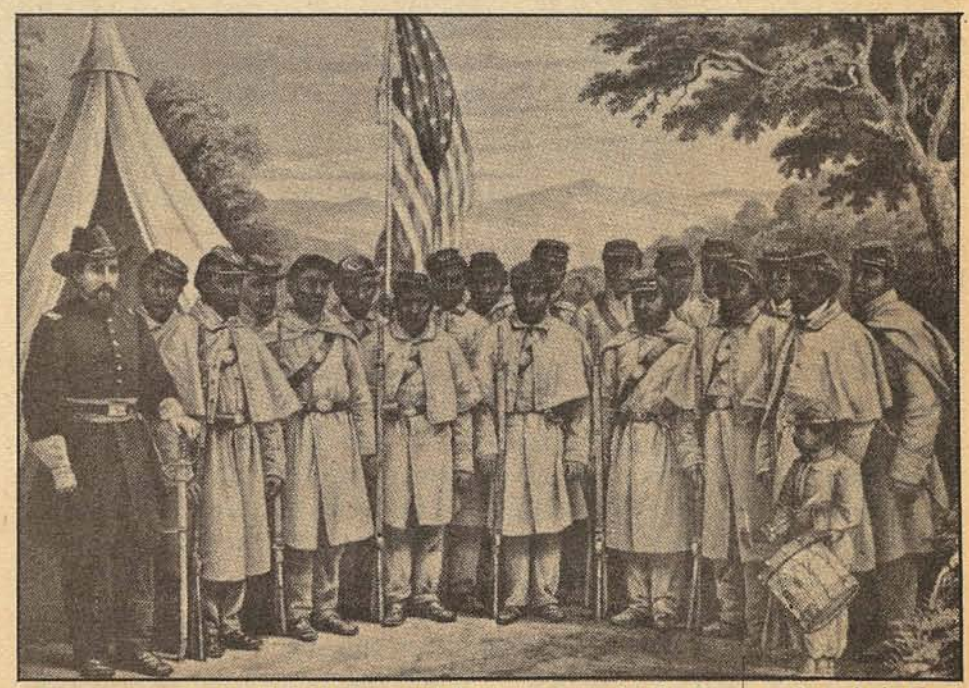
"Keep it (the force the Blacks were providing) and you save the Union. Throw it away and the Union goes with it."

The battle at Miliken's Bend was typical of the way Blacks fought. Lerone Bennett, Jr., in his "Before the Mayflower" says of it: "It was a last-ditch, hand-to-hand, cutting, gouging, brain-busting brawl." Two thousand Confederates attacked the Fort at Miliken's Bend where 1,000 Union soldiers were stationed, most of whom were Black. While the Confederates were able to force the Union soldiers back, the Union soldiers held them off till a U.S. gunboat came and helped. When men ran out of bullets they used their bayonets and guns to slug it out. The Confederates fled.

Black troops at Port Hudson along the Mississippi River and at Fort Wagner, near Charleston Harbor, gave courageous accounts of their fighting ability. At Port Hudson, the First and Third Louisiana Native Guards charged repeatedly even through heavy losses against the Confederate fortifications. The Black troops in the Fifty Fourth Massachusetts Volunteers charged Fort Wagner without any regard for their lives. They gave them willingly and bravely for freedom. Their commanding officer, Robert Gould Shaw, a White who was against slavery, was also killed in that battle. Their's was the military unit, that because it was Black, was paid less than White troops. They served anyway, refusing for a long time any pay at all.

When Black troops were captured, they were not treated as prisoners of war but were either killed or sold into slavery. At Fort Pillow, where many Black soldiers as well as women and children were stationed, a general massacre took place. When Confederate troops overwhelmed Fort Pillow they killed Black men, Black women and Black children. The Confederate commanding officer was General Nathan Beford Forest, an ex-slave dealer. After the Civil War, Forest was to become the chief founder of the Ku Klux Klan, trying to bring back slavery in the United States.

Black men who enlisted as sailors also gave a good accounting of themselves. They served in many capacities both ashore and at sea. In the now famous sea battle between the two iron-clad ships, the Union "Monitor" and the Confederate "Merrimac", Black gun crews were instrumental. Union ships



Blacks, wanting to defeat slavery, left plantations by the thousands to help the Union win the Civil War.

Ex-slaves fighting their former masters in the battle of Chapin's Farm.

blockaded Southern ports and these ships were greatly staffed by Black sailor recruits. This was a huge factor in bringing a South, dependent on its economic exports and imports, to its defeat. A Black sailor by the name of Joachim Pease served on board the "U.S. Kearsage" at the time that it destroyed the Confederate ship, "the Alabama'" off of the coast of France. Sailor Pease was loader on gun number two during this sea fight. His brave conduct under fire was commended by his officers.

One of the most outstanding figures in recruiting Black troops for the Union forces was Frederick Douglass. He had escaped from slavery, taught himself to read and write, spoke and wrote against bondage, and when the Civil War began, recruited hundreds of men for the armed forces. Frederick Douglass was one of America's greatest personalities and did much to end slavery in the United States. Yet he too is a neglected figure in American history.

In January, 1863, President Lincoln, through the Emancipation Proclamation, made freedom from slavery a vital issue in the war. This document was read by torch-light in many a Southern slave cabin. Slaves by the thousands made their way to Northern lines and when Blacks became soldiers and sailors they were more determined than ever to make that freedom a reality. The Lincoln document had many severe limitations concerning true freedom for slaves but Black men and women, by their own military actions in the Civil War won their own freedom from bondage.

Many Blacks won the Congressional Medal of Honor. Many were officers in the Civil War and led troops to battle and victory. They paid a heavy price for the sake of being free. But it was just as heroic Frederick Douglass said, "Without struggle there is no progress." Next year, 1981, Americans will mark the 120th anniversary of that war. Will Blacks be fully recognized for the part they played in it? Will history, the true history, be told in our schools to both Blacks and Whites, in the North and in the South. Can we hope for a T.V. series telling the truth and the huge depth of that struggle? Let us hope that this will be the case and let us dust off the records of that "War of the Great Rebellion", as the Civil War was then called, and bring out all of the truth. □

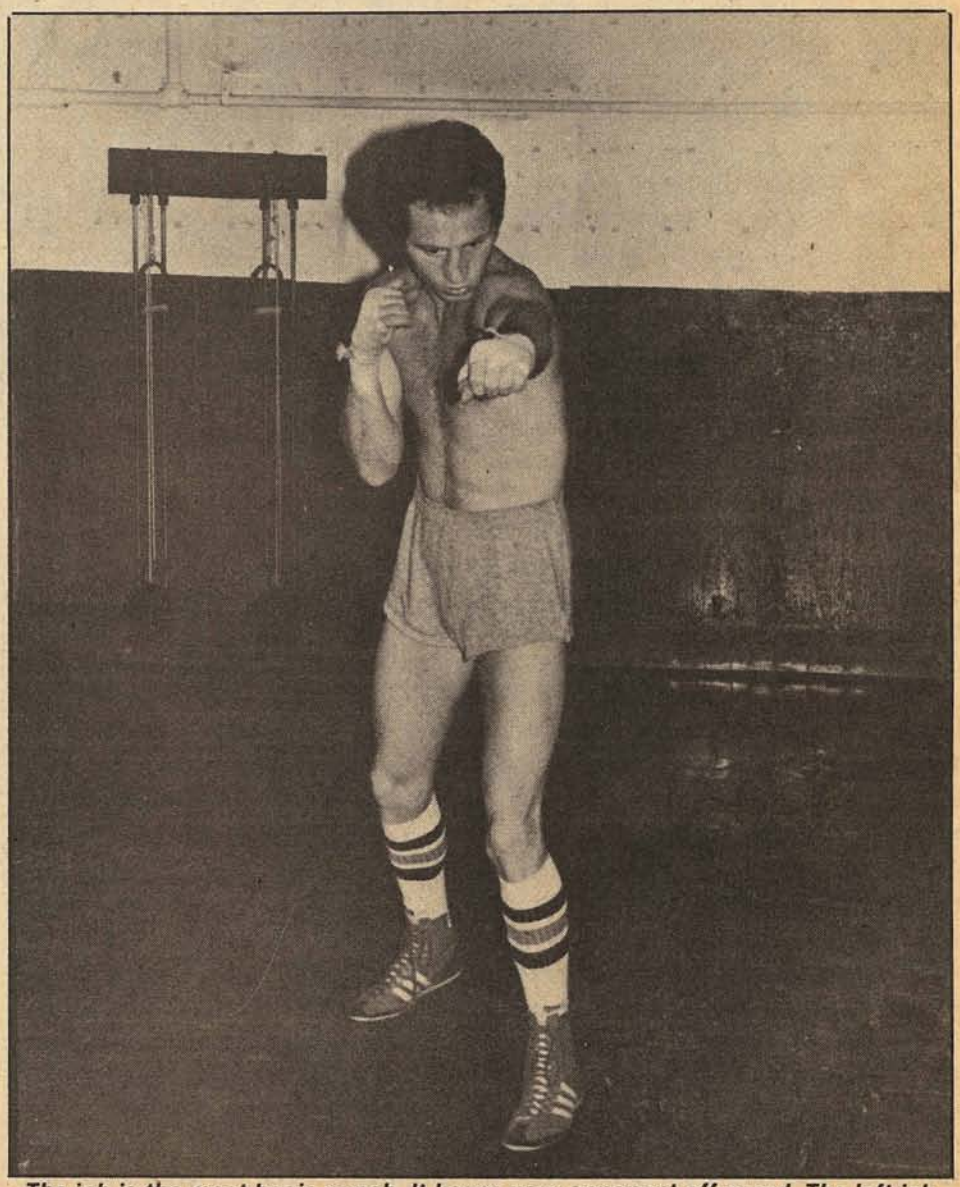
Boxing Rhythms "The Left Jab"

By Johnny Lira

The most important punch in boxing is the left jab. It is used to set your opponent up for other punches, and to keep your opponent off of you, which is a great defensive tool. The left jab will tally up points in the event that you cannot knock out your opponent. Anyone who masters the left jab, in any weight class, will be in boxing for a long time. They will be sustaining less injuries, because they will be keeping their opponent away and they won't get hit much.

When we talked about the move ment of the body in the last article, we were talking about a rhythmic beat; what your body is naturally adapted to, and it is an in-and-out, side-to-side motion; or a side-to-side, in-and-out motion; or any mixture of everything put together. Whenever you see an opening, or you get close enough to the opponent where you think you would be able to deliver a blow, the best punch to use would be your left jab. Now, just keeping the same position that I told you about in the last article: your chin down, your slightly arched body, hands up, elbows to your side—you let your left hand snap right out from that waist position where your elbow was tucked and there is a little snap at the hip movement. As you are throwing your left jab in position, there would also be a little snap at the hip (which could be ½ inch, ¼ inch, or 1 inch snap, depending on how big your body is and how big your hips are), along with the rhythmic beat as you were moving down.

So it would be like moving in-and-out, side-to-side, snap, here comes a jab. In-and-out, side-to-side, snap, here come two jabs. A step to the side, you snap a jab. A snap, in other words, means throwing your punch out there or moving your left hand out there as if to reach for the man's nose. Or moving your left hand to reach at the man's eye. So if you wanted to reach his nose or his eye and snap at it with your two fingers, that would be the kind of movement that you would be using, except with your hand closed in a fist position. There is no lunging forward. You're in that same natural position that we



The jab is the most basic punch. It keeps your opponent off-guard. The left jab stems from your best boxer's position.

talked about in the first article. That is the key to boxing. If your feet are in the right position, if your body is in the right position, the punches will feel natural, they'll feel comfortable. In the event that you miss a punch, you won't be out of position to be countered by the other man's punches.

So in mastering this, you have to crawl through this procedure until it feels really comfortable to your style. At the time all this is going on, your right hand is doing one of two things. Either it is staying in the same position it has been in from the beginning, your right hand and elbow down by your side, the fist is up by your chin, and guarding the right side of your face. In the event that the man tries to hook off your jab (as you jab he tries to hit you with a hook), if your right hand is where it belongs, up by your face, you're not going to be hit by the hook, the glove is going to be in the way. Your chin will be guarded. Now, at the same time you've got your right hand up by your face, your elbow is tucked in by your side; it isn't up in the air like a bird's wing, it's tucked down by your side. But it's a relaxed tuck, it isn't a tight tuck, no looser, but in perfect control.

After you've mastered your movement: you're getting your rhythm down, you're getting your movement down, you're getting your position down; your chin's down, arms to your side, your hands up by your face. The best way to practice your left jab is as you are moving you would go to snatch a ball out of the air. But you don't open your hand to snatch the ball, you keep your fist closed, as if to deliver a blow on the other man's face. Not to go through it, not to follow with your body, but just carrying your arm out to as far as it will go, and then letting it come back to its natural position.

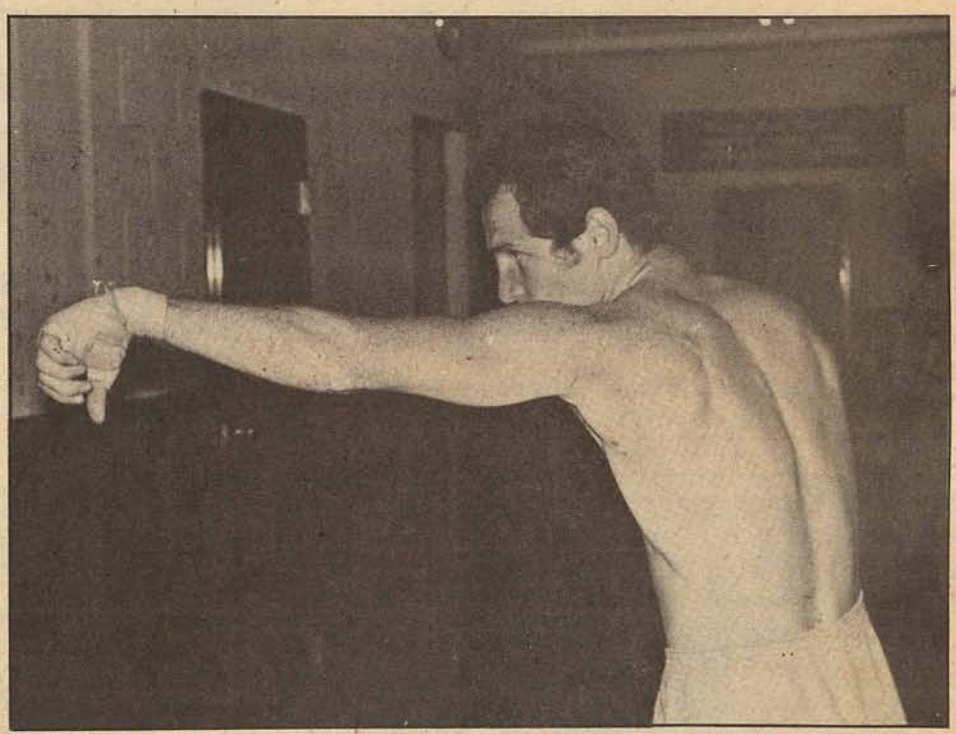
The jab is used to keep your opponent off-balance; it is used to keep your opponent off-guard, and it is used to open him up for other combinations and other punches that you want to hit him with—a right hand, a left hook, an uppercut, a left hook to the body, a right hand to the head—a number of other punches that we'll come to in future articles. Right now we just want to work on the left jab and when you've mastered that, you've mastered boxing. □

Lira KO's Rodriguez In First Round

CICERO—Johnny Lira knocked out Chico Rodriguez in 2.04 of the first round of their scheduled ten-round fight, with a right to the temple here on Wednesday, September 10.

Lira opened with a right and left hook to the body. Rodriguez began to back off towards the ropes. Lira pressed him and caught the young fighter from Columbus, Ohio with the knock-out punch.

The victory was Lira's third since July the 10th, when he decisioned Pedro Acosta at Circle Campus gym. On August 14th, he knocked out Leoncio Mesa in the fourth round. The heavyweight bout on the card saw Luke Capuano, another Chicago favorite with an 18-2 record, knock out George Goforth of St. Louis in two minutes and 59 seconds in the second round.



The left jab is the most important punch in boxing. Your left hand snaps out—there is no lunge involved.

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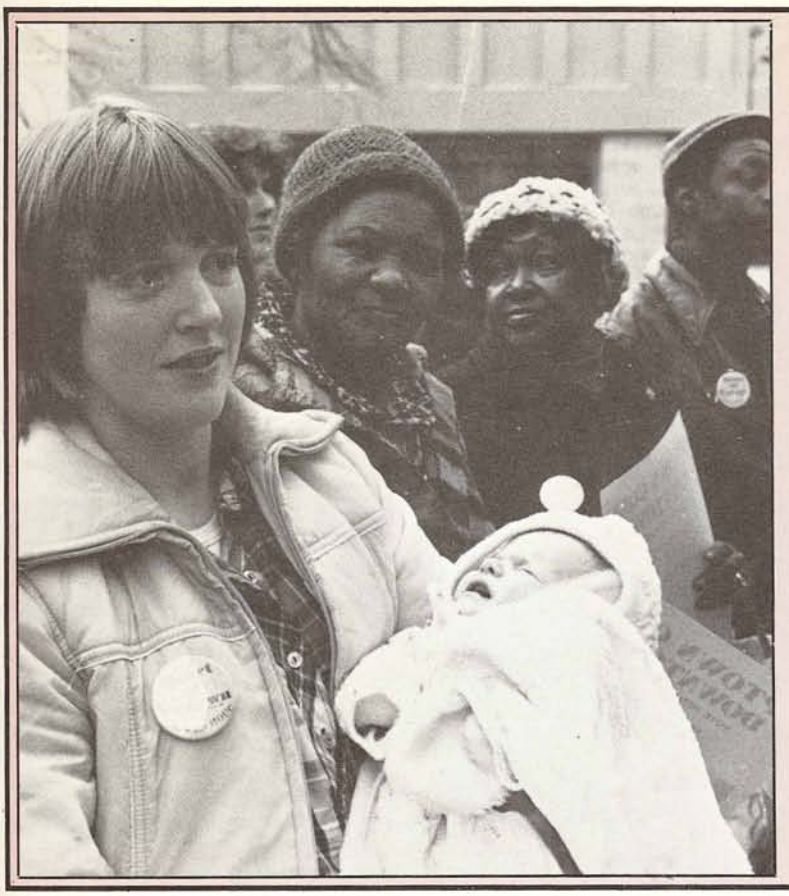

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Thank you, Community Artists.

KEEP STRONG,
Bill Allen, Vice-President
Treasure Island

About The Back Cover

The picture was taken by Kim Nash. It is the Ellis Hotel which burned the night of February 19, 1979. Two residents were killed in the third fire in less than a week. It was owned by Charlie Roberts.

The Heart of Uptown Coalition continues its fight to stop arson for profit. It will continue to fight against slumlords like Charlie Roberts in order to make Uptown a safe community.

Photography by Kim Nash, 1979